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An impeachment motion with no winners

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Connolly delivers for Kings in a thriller

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Trump blasts allies, tells them 'go get your own oil'

U.S. President accuses NATO partners of not being there for America during the war on Iran; he tells countries they can either buy fuel from the U.S. or go to the Strait of Hormuz to pick it up

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

U.S. President Donald Trump lashed out at allies on Tuesday telling them to fend for themselves regarding oil supplies, adding to the pressure within the Western military alliance, NATO, whose members have not joined the U.S. and Israel in their war on Iran.

Mr. Trump accused allies of not being there for the U.S. and encouraged countries to take the oil from the Strait of Hormuz, the crucial waterway bordering Iran that Tehran has mostly blocked off. The President's messages came as oil prices have been surging and hours after the UAE's authorities reported a drone attack on an oil tanker off Dubai.

"All of those countries that can't get jet fuel because of the Strait of Hormuz, like the United Kingdom, which refused to get involved in the decapitation of Iran, I have a suggestion for you: Number 1, buy from the U.S., we have plenty, and Number 2, build up some delayed courage, go to the Strait, and just TAKE IT," Mr. Trump wrote on the Truth Social site, early Tuesday morning Washington time.

"You'll have to start learning how to fight for yourself, the U.S.A. won't be there to help you anymore, just like you weren't there for us. Iran has been, essentially, decimated. The hard part is done. Go get your own oil!" Mr. Trump added.

In recent weeks, the President has been at odds with the position of U.K. Prime Minister on Iran and the fallout of the war, after spending the larger part of last year embracing Mr. Starmer and the U.K.-U.S. "special relationship" since his return to the White House.

However, Mr. Trump, in a subsequent post, said he "greatly respected" Britain's King Charles III and looked forward to welcoming the King and Queen on a state visit to Washington at the end of the month. Buckingham Palace confirmed the visit.

The U.K. government has used the British Royal Family as a diplomatic tool with Mr. Trump, including by hosting him for a second state visit in the U.K. last year.

Asked for a reaction to Mr. Trump's statements, Downing Street directed *The Hindu* to Mr. Starmer's words on a visit to Finland last week. There, the Prime Minister had focused on Russia's war with Ukraine saying there was a "war on two fronts", in Ukraine and Iran. Russian President Vladimir Putin was benefiting from the war in West Asia, Mr. Starmer had said, as he urged the harder pursuit of Russia's 'shadow fleet' of oil-carrying vessels in European waters, circumventing Western sanctions.

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CAULDRON OF CONFLICT
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Assessing damage: Members of the Red Crescent Society working at the site of an attack in Tehran on Tuesday. REUTERS

'Iran has will to end war, but needs guarantees'

TEHRAN
Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Tuesday his country had the "necessary will" to end the ongoing war with Israel and the United States, but was seeking guarantees that the conflict would not be repeated. "The solution to normalising the situation is the cessation of their aggressive attacks," he said on Tuesday. » PAGE 16

Former KCTU MD convicted in corruption case

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

While castigating the Lokayukta police for serious lapses in probing a corruption case, a Bengaluru special court has convicted V. Muniyappa, former managing director of the Karnataka Council for Technological Upgradation (KCTU), for accumulating ₹4.13 crore in disproportionate assets, 170% above his known sources of income. He was sentenced to three years' rigorous imprisonment with a ₹4.5 crore fine.

The court sharply criticised Investigating Officer T.V. Manjunatha for multiple blunders. The court also pulled up four officials for their "negligence" and "reports misleading the court" in the assessment of his assets.

FULL REPORT ON
» PAGE 3

Eight killed in Bihar temple stampede

Tragic incident: People receive treatment in a hospital after the stampede at Sheetla Mata Temple in Bihar's Nalanda district. ANI

Amarnath Tewary
PATNA

At least eight people, mostly women devotees, were killed and several others injured in a stampede at the Sheetla Mata Temple in Nalanda district of Bihar on Tuesday.

The government has ordered a probe into the incident, which occurred in outgoing Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's home district. Police officers at the Deep Nagar station have been suspended.

Some local residents claimed that security at the temple was short-handed as most of the district's police personnel had been deployed for President Droupadi Murmu's visit to a university just a few kilometres away.

Others blamed the temple management for taking bribes to allowing devotees to bypass the queue.

Mr. Kumar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Murmu expressed grief over the incident.

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NEARBY

Census begins in State today

BENGALURU
Allowing people to access the self-enumeration window from Wednesday, when personal details can be entered into the secured portal, will mark the commencement of the Census of India, 2027, in Karnataka.
» PAGE 8

Fans' quota of IPL tickets may take a hit

BENGALURU
Legislators have drawn flak from the public for demanding free IPL tickets, with many pointing out that common citizens struggle to secure tickets and their allocation may take a hit. » PAGE 2

OPPORTUNITIES » PAGE 3

India can comfortably cater to PNG demand: govt.

Saptaparno Ghosh
NEW DELHI

India can comfortably cater to the demand of as many as 30 crore domestic piped natural gas (PNG) connections even if it were to solely rely on its domestic production of liquefied natural gas (LNG), according to Anjan Kumar Mishra, Secretary at the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board.

He also said that the government was trying to scale up number of connections added every day.

With escalating tensions in West Asia, the government has sought to institute mechanisms for an accelerated and incentivised transition to piped gas.

The objective is to ease some pressure off the liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), supplies of which have been affected.

Speaking to *The Hindu* on the sidelines of industry body PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry's Hydrocarbon Summit, Mr. Mishra said India had approximately 1.1-1.2 crore active domestic PNG connections. These connections consumed 3 million metric standard cubic meters of natural gas per day.

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WORLD GOLD COUNCIL

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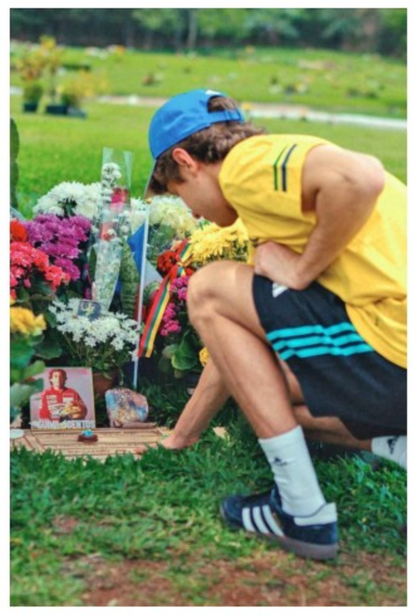
Kimi Antonelli — a blend of Senna's soul and Bolt's speed

The 19-year-old, who has given a glimpse of his talent, has justified Mercedes team principal Wolff's decision to fast-track him to the hot seat; the Italian will want to sustain the momentum he has built after wins in China, Japan



REUTERS

Anirudh Velamuri

Formula One has always been more than just a sport - it's a theatre of speed, skill, and spectacle. And nowhere is that more evident than in its recent boom in the United States of America, where the *Netflix* hit series 'Drive to Survive' has turned F1 into a cultural phenomenon.

The country now hosts three races, with two more just across its northern and southern borders. Alongside the tracks, celebrities, influencers, and industry insiders have flocked to F1 events, while *Apple* reportedly invested $250-300 million in a Hollywood movie about the sport.

Yet even before the newfound glitz and glamour, drivers had long been striking the right pose. One of them happened in this country not too long ago, when Sebastian Vettel got out of the RB9 and bowed down to it at the 2013 Indian Grand Prix after sealing his fourth world title.

Then there's Daniel Ricciardo and his 'shoey', Michael Schumacher slamming the steering wheel hard enough to break it, Fernando Alonso's emotion-filled scream while standing on top of the Renault R25 and so on. Some were planned, others spontaneous, but each is etched into the sport's folklore.

Enter Kimi Antonelli. Devoted fans knew what celebration to expect from him, yet it slipped amid the chaos of his maiden F1 win in China earlier this month.

"To be fair, I forgot to do it after my first win. I wanted to do the Usain Bolt celebration. I really like Usain Bolt because he's like the fastest man on earth and I really wanted to do it. I love his celebration, I did it in Formula 2 as well but I just forgot it in the moment," he said before the Japanese GP.

That, in a nutshell, encapsulates the youthful exuberance of Antonelli, a teenager whose best laid plans took the backseat as raw emotions took centre stage. Normal service resumed at Suzuka, with Antonelli channelling his inner Bolt after a comfortable victory. For fans, this was just a glimpse of the rising star who is comfortably navigating the cut-throat nature of motorsport's pinnacle.

Fulfilling destiny

Despite the brief dalliance with football when he was younger, it was motorsports that was in Antonelli's destiny, thanks to his early interest in karting as well as his father's established roots in the Italian F4 championship, among others.

Then there's also the small matter of where their house is located: the Antonellis live in an area of Bologna called 'Motor Valley' where Lamborghini, Ducati, Maserati and Ferrari are all based nearby, in addition to the Imola and Modena race tracks.

At age five, Antonelli took the wheel of a go-kart (called Delfino) at the track in Forli and never looked back. Even as a child, F1 was the ultimate ambition.

"At Hockenheim in 2014, I couldn't get into the paddock because I was too little. My Dad decided to hide me inside a stack of tyres and wheel me through on a trolley. We put an umbrella on top to make it harder to spot me!" he told Mercedes before his F1 debut.

"I got through and into the pit lane, and my dad's friend got me a pass. I had a look around for an hour and it was such a cool experience - but we always laugh at the story of the trolley."

That said, when the call came from Mercedes team principal Toto Wolff to step up to F1, Antonelli understandably thought it was a joke. For he had not even made his Formula 2 debut by then. But for Wolff, it was no laughing matter, especially since he was picking a rookie to replace seven-time world champion Lewis Hamilton.

"In the car, Kimi is just a monster. When the visor is down, that boy just delivers. It is very rare to see kids win everything they've ever participated in. In F1, these have become the great champions, the likes of Max Verstappen, Michael Schumacher, Ayrton Senna. Kimi has the same great potential," Wolff told *Netflix*.

Antonelli was always earmarked internally as Hamilton's replacement at the Silver Arrows. The latter's move to Ferrari accelerated the timeline.

Clean slate

The 2026 regulation shake-up allowed Mercedes to challenge Red Bull's dominance and halt McLaren's recent success. The W17 became arguably the best car on the grid, and Antonelli, alongside George Russell, was perfectly positioned to capitalise. Pre-season predictions had tipped Russell for the championship, a notion reinforced by his early win in Melbourne and his Sprint victory in China, where a collision forced Antonelli to battle tooth and nail just to finish fifth.

While Russell basked in the headlines, the younger, less-experienced Italian quietly turned heads. Fans and pundits alike took note of the raw talent Antonelli was displaying, proof that Mercedes had a genuine star in the making.

Antonelli broke through spectacularly, claiming pole position and, despite a tricky start that left him briefly shuffled by Ferrari, fought back to secure his first F1 victory. Before the ink was dry on the record books and before critics could assemble their doubts, he demonstrated in Japan that he was no one-off.

A hint of luck played its part in both wins: Russell's qualifying woes opened the door in China, while a well-timed Safety Car smoothed the way for Antonelli to register back-to-back triumphs. Some might call it "champion's luck."

After the roller-coaster of his rookie 2025 season, Antonelli now appears more composed and level-headed, fully capable of holding his own at the front of the grid.

"Experience does a lot. Obviously, last year I've gone through a lot and it taught me massively more than what I anticipated, and for sure it's helping so far this year. Of course, there's still a lot of work to do, but I definitely feel much more in control of the situation."

While being the youngest person to lead the drivers' championship doesn't make him the favourite to seal the title, the last two races have at least shown that we have a title fight on our hands - even if it is between two teammates. Like a *deja vu* for Mercedes and Wolff.

As for Antonelli, he knows that there's a lot to improve and a month's break comes right in time to aid the same.

"Luckily, I've got three weeks, so now I can practice some clutch drops just to get a better feel with it, because definitely it's been a weak point so far this year and you need to improve that because you can easily win or lose races with that," he said after the Japanese GP.

Not many teenagers bother about their legacies beyond the glamour of triumph. Antonelli, if the early signs are anything to go by, is an outlier here too.

Like a plethora of drivers, he looks up to Senna. He may never have seen the three-time F1 champion race live, but has spent countless hours watching and rewatching Senna's performances, and studying everything the legendary driver accomplished both on and off the track.

Senna's influence is evident even in Antonelli's choice of car number. The Brazilian used the number 12 for three seasons with Lotus, with which he got his first F1 win (Portugal 1985). He stuck to that number at McLaren, where he won his first world title in 1988.

"It is also the number I first used in single-seaters. From F4, I started to use '12' straight away and it worked pretty well. Hopefully, I can carry that on in F1. I was also 12 years old when I joined the Mercedes junior programme, so there is that too."

Antonelli's admiration goes beyond driving prowess. He hopes to emulate Senna's character and empathy as much as his skill.

"Spa when he jumped out the car to turn off the engine because he saw the driver wasn't conscious. He was really special. He wasn't afraid to show his origins. Brazil was in a difficult situation in those years, but he was always proud to be a Brazilian and show that," Antonelli, then in the F2 circuit, said.

"He's not only a good driver but also a person. He was a really empathetic person. My dream is to reach F1 and to achieve a little part of what he achieved during his career. So he's my first influence and inspiration."

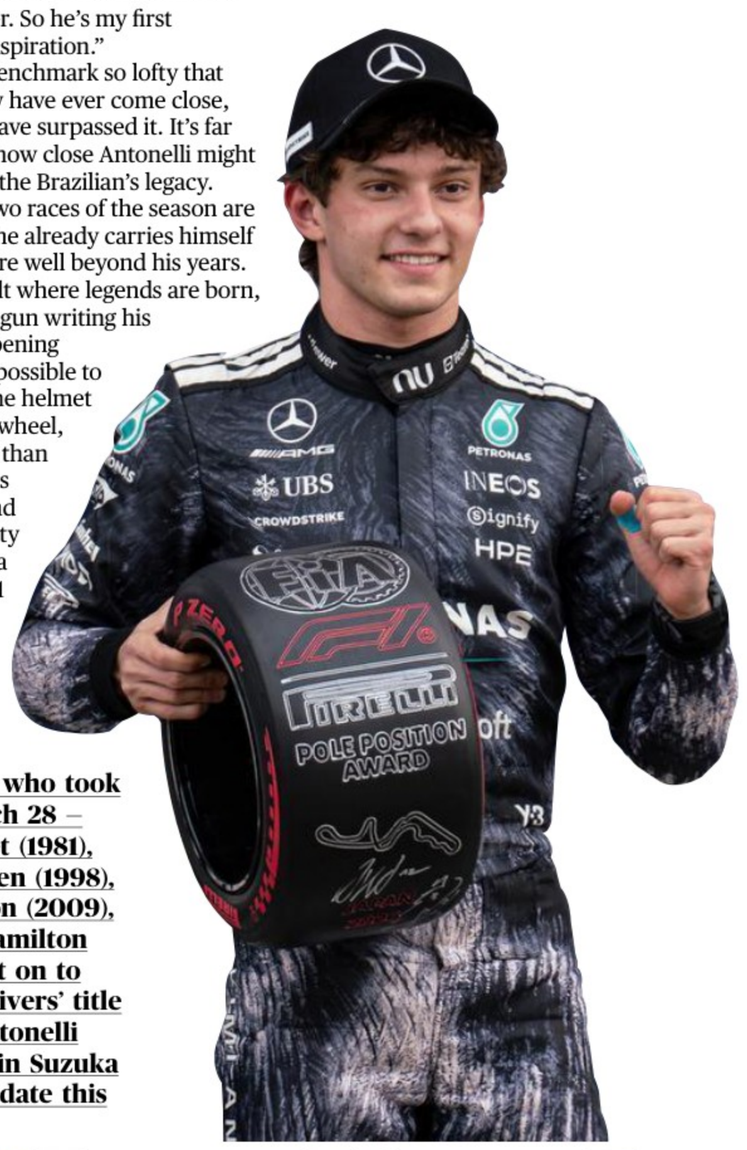
Senna set a benchmark so lofty that only a select few have ever come close, and fewer still have surpassed it. It's far too soon to say how close Antonelli might get to matching the Brazilian's legacy. Yet, if the first two races of the season are any indication, he already carries himself with a composure well beyond his years.

On the asphalt where legends are born, Antonelli has begun writing his story and the opening chapters are impossible to ignore. Under the helmet and behind the wheel, he carries more than speed; he carries curiosity, joy, and the quiet audacity to dream. He is a reminder that F1 is as much about the soul of the driver as the machinery beneath him.

Four drivers who took pole on March 28 — Nelson Piquet (1981), Mika Hakkinen (1998), Jenson Button (2009), and Lewis Hamilton (2015) — went on to clinch the drivers' title that year. Antonelli bagged pole in Suzuka on the same date this year

THE GIST

- Despite the brief dalliance with football when he was younger, it was motorsports that was in Antonelli's destiny, thanks to his early interest in karting as well as his father's established roots in the Italian F4 championship
- Antonelli's admiration goes beyond driving prowess. He hopes to emulate Senna's character and empathy as much as his skill
- If the first two races of the season are any indication, he already carries himself with a composure well beyond his years



Free tickets for legislators likely to hit fans' quota and clubs' share

Many point out the 'entitlement' behind such demands from legislators, as common citizens struggle to secure tickets

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Legislators in the State have drawn flak from the general public for demanding free tickets to matches at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, with many pointing out the "entitlement" behind such demands, as common citizens struggle to secure tickets even if they are ready to pay hefty sums.

Most members of the public who spoke to *The Hindu* said the most absurd aspect is that MLAs, who own luxury cars and can afford foreign trips at will, are demanding "free tickets" and are unwilling to pay.

Under existing norms, when fans purchase tickets through official channels, a restriction limits each user to two tickets, while MLAs will now receive three 'free tickets'. K. MURALI KUMAR

According to sources across multiple departments, the usual practice is as follows: 85% of the total tickets are allotted to Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB), while 15% remain with the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA). From its share, the KSCA distributes tickets to around 400 affiliated cricket clubs. In addition, it is common practice to provide tickets to officials of various departments, such as the police, fire services, and civic bodies in similar proportions.

Requesting anonymity, a source familiar with the matter explained that, historically, tickets were sent to MLAs through a single common channel each year, purely as a gesture of "goodwill." What had long been a goodwill gesture is now set to become a demand-supply arrangement, with the KSCA and RCB agreeing to provide three tickets per legislator free of cost.

Interestingly, under existing ticketing norms, when a fan purchases tickets through official channels, a restriction limits each user to two tickets. In contrast, MLAs will now receive three "free tickets."

Moreover, of the 85% ticket share allotted to RCB, a significant portion is reserved for sponsors, according to the source. As a result, the share available to the general public is already very limited, often leaving fans frustrated, as reflected in widespread online reactions.

Now, with both RCB and KSCA agreeing to provide three tickets to lawmakers, adjustments will have to be made elsewhere. These will likely come at the expense of the fans' quota and the clubs' quota. A KSCA source explained that clubs receive tickets to bring budding youngsters to matches and help them understand the depth of a game. A possible reduction in this allocation would essentially mean that MLAs are encroaching on this.

However, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Monday stated that in other States, around 50-60% of the tickets are distributed among government officials and other categories, whereas in Karnataka, it is lower.

In fact, the Supreme Court-appointed Lodha committee, constituted in 2015 to reform cricket's governance structure, had observed in its report that tickets to matches are often distributed as largesse among members of cricket associations as a matter of entitlement, thereby reducing their availability to the general public. The committee had also raised key questions: What is the basis for granting free tickets or passes? What proportion of tickets is made available to the general public, and how is this ensured transparently? What is the policy for giving tickets/passes to governmental and statutory authorities?

Despite these observations, the ground reality seems to have not changed much.

Fans oppose

Preetham Karigar, founder of the Namma Team RCB fan club, said, "It's understandable that legislators may request tickets, but it shouldn't turn into large-scale demands. With the huge demand for IPL matches, it is already very difficult for common fans to get tickets. At venues like M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, the limited capacity makes it even harder."

The seating capacity of M. Chinnaswamy Stadium is pegged at 32,000, comparatively lesser than many other marquee cricket stadiums in the country.

Rishab, another member of the fan club, described the difficulty: "We have to keep multiple devices open and keep trying. There is no proper system; it is honestly all down to luck. Otherwise, one has to opt for more expensive tickets. In this situation, when MLAs demand free tickets, claiming it is their right and that they have been disrespected, it is, frankly, disrespectful to fans." As he put it, "With all due respect, they are public servants, not VIPs."

Minors hired to steal mobile phones during IPL match

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The police have recovered 21 stolen phones of various brands, collectively valued at approximately ₹18 lakh. SUDHAKARA JAIN

In a major breakthrough, the Cubbon Park police have cracked a series of mobile phone theft cases reported during the IPL match held at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru on March 28. The police busted a group of minors, who were employed by a gang from outside Karnataka, to operate in and around the stadium during the match. The police have recovered 21 mobile phones worth ₹18 lakh from the gang.

According to the police, several spectators who had come to watch the match reported that their mobile phones had been stolen. Acting swiftly, the police registered a case and launched an investigation.

A key accused has been taken into custody, along with a few juveniles suspected to be involved in the crime.

The police recovered 21 stolen mobile phones of various brands, collectively valued at approximately ₹18 lakh, City Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh informed mediaperson.

The police are trying to track down other members of the gang who are on the run.

Preliminary investigation suggests that the accused targeted unsuspecting spectators during the high footfall event.

The police are verifying if the gang was involved in similar thefts reported earlier.

Authorities have urged people to remain vigilant during large gatherings, and to report any suspicious activity to the police.

Two arrested for peddling heroin

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Adugodi Police have arrested two persons, including a man who claimed to be a bhajan keertan singer from Uttar Pradesh, for allegedly peddling heroin in the city.

The arrested accused have been identified as Baljit Singh, from Uttar Pradesh, and Arjun Joshi, a native of Nepal.

The police said Arjun was working as a delivery agent and had allegedly taken to drug peddling.

According to investigators, Arjun initially consumed drugs and later began selling heroin. He allegedly sourced the contraband from Baljit Singh, who sourced the drugs from Punjab and sold it to customers in the city.

Baljit Singh reportedly moved to Bengaluru to supply heroin, where he was caught by Adugodi Police. During the interrogation, Baljit claimed to be a bhajan singer in his hometown and was allegedly involved in drug peddling as a part-time activity.

The police have seized 162 grams of heroin worth ₹55 lakh and three mobile phones from the accused.

A case has been registered at the Adugodi Police Station, and further investigation is under way to trace the wider network involved in the supply chain, the police said.

CCB cracks down on wristwatch racket

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Central Crime Branch (CCB) has busted a racket involved in the sale of counterfeit branded wristwatches in the city and have arrested five persons.

The accused – Harish Kumar, Syed Zaid Iqbal, Mohammed Habeeb Hussain, Khaleemullah, and Abdul Rehman – were allegedly selling fake wristwatches under the brand name of Titan Company Ltd.

The police said the accused lured customers by offering so-called "off-rate" or "cheap rate" deals, selling wristwatches worth around ₹5,000 at nearly half the price, claiming that they were original, branded products.

Acting on a complaint filed by the Titan Company, the CCB's Economic Offences Wing conducted raids in areas such as RT Nagar and Chickpet, where the accused were operating retail outlets. During the operation, the police seized 670 counterfeit wristwatches worth approximately ₹25 lakh.

Preliminary investigation revealed that the accused were selling duplicate wristwatches resembling the brand's popular models.

The police are now probing the source of the manufacturing and supply of these fake products. A case has been registered, and further investigation is under way.

Vibrant

Members of the Jain community celebrating Mahaveer Jayanti in Bengaluru on Tuesday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Drugs worth ₹2.57 crore seized, 11 arrested

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a major crackdown on narcotics, multiple police teams arrested 11 persons, including two foreigners, in connection with illegal drug trafficking in the city.

The police seized 2 kg 7 grams of MDMA, 31 kg 396 grams of ganja, 220 grams of hydro ganja, 162 grams of heroin. Additionally, a two-wheeler used for transporting drugs was confiscated. The total value of the seized contraband is estimated to be ₹2.57 crore while its potential market value is pegged at around ₹5.14 crore, Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh said.

Suppliers

Investigations revealed that the accused procured drugs from foreign and inter-State suppliers and sold them in Bengaluru. The network allegedly targeted college students and the general public.

Based on credible intelligence, the police registered cases under the NDPS Act, 1985 and conducted multiple raids, leading to the arrests. Personnel from Yelahanka, Adugodi, Bharathinagar, Jalahalli and Pulakeshinagar were involved in the operation.

The accused have been produced before court and remanded to judicial custody. The police are trying to trace the kingpins who supplied the drugs to the peddlers, and others who are part of the drug distribution network.

How NIMHANS–Namma 112 integration will route mental health distress calls

Rishita Khanna
BENGALURU

From the moment a distress call is received to the point help is offered, the recent integration between Tele-Manas (14416) at the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS) and Bengaluru's Namma 112 emergency response system has been designed by considering around three core factors including location-based routing, structured risk screening at the first point of contact, and bi-directional escalation between counselling and police response.

The differentiation mechanism is important here because Tele-Manas receives calls from across the country, and without a filtering structure, indiscriminate diversion between systems could result in delays.

Only calls originating within Bengaluru and identified as requiring mental health counselling are patched to this Tele-Manas. K. MURALI KUMAR

Recently, the bi-directional integration between Tele-Manas and the Bengaluru City Police Emergency Response Support System Namma 112, was inaugurated in the city as a pilot initiative to provide timely assistance to individuals experiencing mental distress.

Under this, calls received at Tele-Manas that require immediate police intervention, including cases involving suicide risk or domestic violence, will be transferred to Namma 112 for on-ground response. Conversely, calls received at 112 that are identified as requiring mental health support rather than emergency police action will be routed to Tele-Manas, where trained counsellors and mental health professionals will provide tele-counselling and further intervention where necessary.

Officials said the objective of launching the integrated platform was to create a coordinated response mechanism for psychiatric emergencies, including cases involving suicidal tendencies, severe emotional distress, and domestic violence where both counselling support and immediate police intervention may be required. "The pilot will be monitored in Bengaluru, and based on its effectiveness and response outcomes, the model is expected to be scaled up across Karnataka," City Police Commissioner, Seemanth Kumar Singh, told *The Hindu*.

If there is immediate risk, the case is treated as an emergency and handled entirely within the 112 framework. Police response units – Hoysala mobile patrol vehicles – are mobilised directly from the control room to ensure there is no loss of time, officials said. However, if the caller is not at immediate risk of harm but is experiencing mental distress – including persistent stress, anxiety, low mood, emotional disturbance, or other psychological concerns – the call is then transferred to the Tele-Manas cell located at NIMHANS in Bengaluru.

Because the routing is "location-based," only calls originating within Bengaluru and identified as requiring mental health counselling are patched to this unit. This ensures that the NIMHANS Tele-Manas cell does not receive calls indiscriminately from the national pool, despite the service operating across India.

How does it work?

The system is bidirectional, meaning the movement of calls can happen in both directions depending on risk assessment. If a Tele-Manas counsellor identifies signs of imminent self-harm or escalating danger during a counselling session, the case is escalated internally to a mental health professional for confirmation. If the professional deems that immediate in-person intervention is necessary to prevent harm, the call is transferred back to the 112 control room along with relevant details. The 112 team then mobilises emergency response services while Tele-Manas will continue follow-up care once the immediate crisis is addressed.

Naveen Kumar C., Professor of Psychiatry, NIMHANS and principal investigator, National Tele Mental Health Programme of India, said both 112 call-takers and Tele-Manas counsellors have undergone the necessary training to identify risk categories and to cross-refer cases appropriately between the two services. The aim, he said, is to ensure that callers are directed to the appropriate service at the earliest point, without being left between systems. The technology backbone enabling this structured routing was developed with support from the International Institute of Information Technology Bangalore (IIIT-B).

T.K. Srikanth, Professor of Practice and Head of the E-Health Research Centre (EHRC), at IIIT-B said the system has been built on a centralised and scalable architecture aligned with the mission of improving ICT solutions for large-scale healthcare concerns in India, particularly in underserved regions where affordability, accessibility, and availability of care remain major challenges. To sustain this model, the integration includes a customisable interactive voice response system that allows addition of more users, languages, and workflows as needed.

Earth's orbits are filling up because governance hasn't kept pace

There is no regular way to check whether satellite operators follow through on promises to make satellites safe when they stop working, to move them out of the way or to bring them down once their mission ends; thus, regulators often go by what companies say they will do before launch rather than on what regulators can confirm

Shrawani Shagun
Abhiram Nair

By dramatically cutting launch costs, reusable boosters allowed SpaceX to deploy the large Starlink satellite constellation at an economically viable scale. SPACEX

THE GIST

The earth's orbital environment has become crowded, fragile, and vulnerable, threatened by what is today evidently a failure of governance rather than just of engineering

Reducing risk depends on having accurate information about when objects in orbit might come close to one another and exactly where they are

Even debris smaller than a coin, travelling at orbital velocities, carries enough energy to disable or destroy active satellites

The existing treaties were written for an era when space activity was limited, controlled by states, and innovation was slow

Throughout human history, the sky symbolised freedom – vast, open, untouched. Today, that no longer holds. The earth's orbital environment has become crowded, fragile, and vulnerable, threatened by what is today evidently a failure of governance rather than just of engineering.

The language of space sustainability has grown familiar in international forums and policy documents. Yet familiarity has bred complacency. As launches become more frequent and the number of private actors multiplies, the gap between what is promised and what is implemented has continued to widen. The result is an orbital environment that is actively used, commercially exploited, and strategically warranted but ethically under-governed.

Orbital harm is difficult to govern because much of the debris capable of causing damage is impossible to track consistently. Authorities are also able to say which fragment came from which object only after it has caused some damage, and even then with limited certainty.

Reducing risk depends on having accurate information about when objects in orbit might come close to one another and exactly where they are.

But access to this information is uneven across satellite operators and countries, and it may be withheld for commercial reasons or kept secret for security reasons.

There's also no regular way to check whether operators actually follow through on promises to make satellites safe when they stop working, to move them out of the way or to bring them down once their mission ends, especially for small satellites or missions that last only a short time.

As a result, regulators mostly go by what companies say they will do before launch rather than on what regulators can confirm once the satellite is in orbit, which ultimately leaves responsibility unclear.

Responsibility and prevention

Even debris smaller than a coin, travelling at orbital velocities, carries enough energy to disable or destroy active satellites. Each collision generates thousands of new fragments, multiplying risk. International law obligates states to take reasonable measures to prevent foreseeable harm arising from activities under their jurisdiction. In the context of orbital debris, this means states need to plan for collisions, fragmentation, and long-term congestion – but do they? Indeed, choosing not to mitigate risk is itself a decision because it expects others to deal with dangerous situations.

Orbital governance also remains anchored in outdated assumptions. The existing treaties were written for an era when space activity was limited, controlled by states, and innovation was slow. Importantly, they do not address cumulative harm and stewardship. Article VI of the Outer Space Treaty makes states internationally responsible for national activities in outer space, including those carried out by private actors. Article VII establishes liability for damage caused by space objects. Yet these provisions were not designed to prevent cumulative harm and are also poorly suited to preventing cumulative harm before it becomes irreversible.

At present, there is no international duty-of-care standard for the earth's orbits and no ethical threshold for 'acceptable' congestion.

National licensing regimes are one of a few mechanisms that can enforce orbital responsibility before damage occurs. Increasingly of late, before they approve a rocket launch or a mission, regulators need to be told the orbital lifetime, the ways in which the payload can be disposed of, whether it has provisions to avoid collisions, and whether it can be passivated (i.e. deprived of the ability to move around). However, regulators in different jurisdictions ask for different levels of details, so operators register in permissive regulatory environments.

To avoid this, licensing conditions need to be standardised, alongside mandating launch operators to use measurable debris-mitigation thresholds, compulsorily share data to improve space situational awareness, and use verifiable end-of-life disposal strategies.

Orbital harm is difficult to govern because much of the debris capable of causing damage is impossible to track consistently. Authorities are also able to say which fragment came from which object only after it has caused some damage

The ethical vacuum is becoming more pronounced as new actors enter space. Nations entering spaceflight for the first time and private enterprises are central to the future of orbital activity – but will these actors inherit the permissive norms that produced today's congestion or will they help redefine responsibility for the decades ahead?

Principles embedded in international environmental law, including precaution, proportionality, and intergenerational equity, offer a useful guide. These principles recognise that uncertainty does not excuse inaction and that the way we use (non-rivalrous) resources today should not foreclose future generations' access to the same resources.

India's opportunity

The present moment is particularly significant for India. Its space programme has for a long time operated with tight constraints while delivering global services. As commercial participation expands and launch capabilities grow, India can either remain a silent participant or help shape their ethical norms. Specifically, as India develops its national space legislation and licensing regime, it has a chance to embed orbital responsibility as a legal requirement.

Ethical governance means recognising that shared environments demand shared restraint and that access to orbit carries obligations beyond national interest or commerce. Setting up such a governing system in turn requires us to answer some tough questions first: When does congestion become negligence? Who bears responsibility for cumulative risk? What obligations do present-day operators owe to future spacefarers?

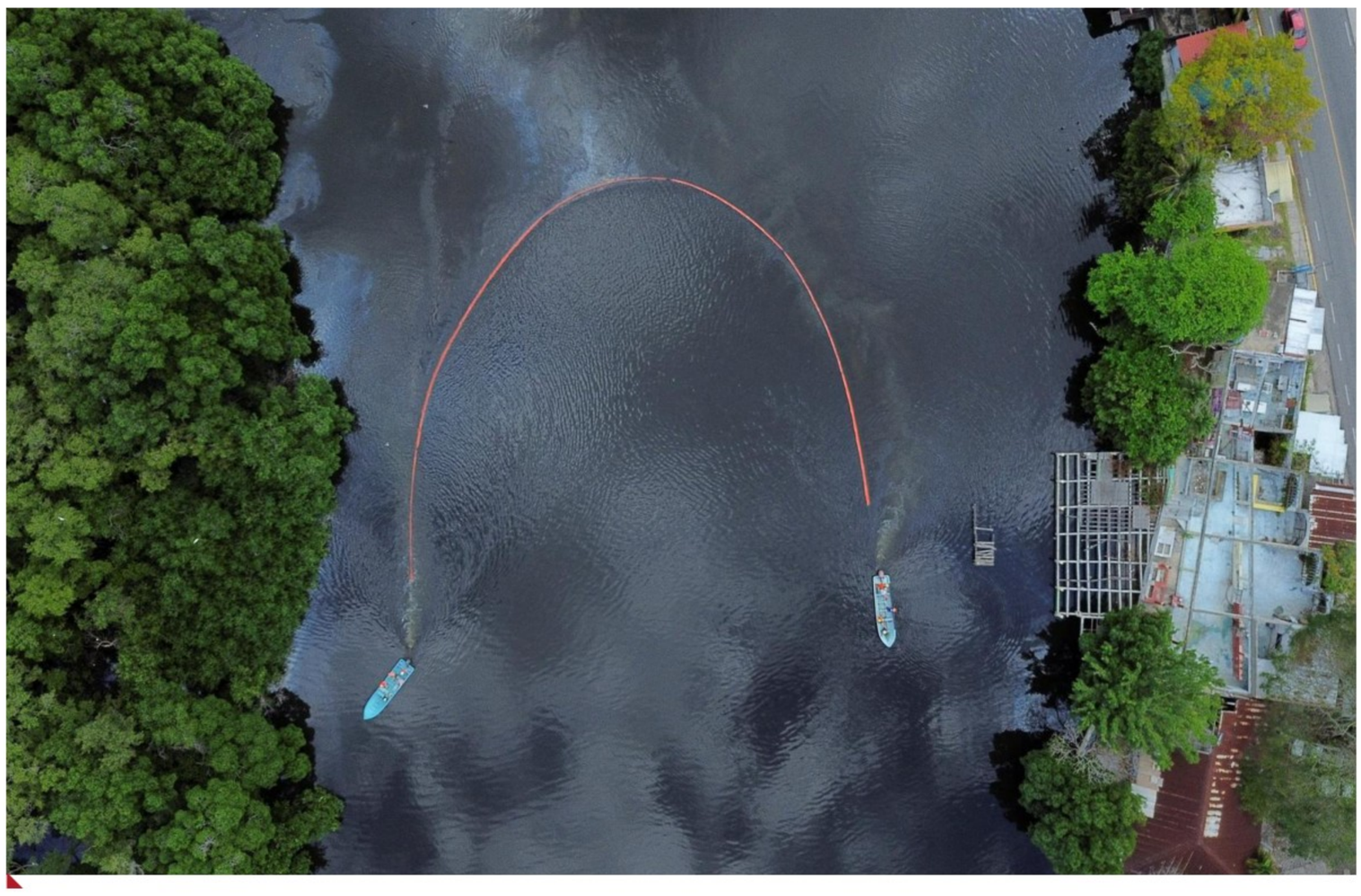
Voluntary guidelines and rhetorical commitments no longer work; instead, governments and private sector enterprises must express the best principles of environmental governance in enforceable terms in space policy. Existing guidelines to mitigate debris in orbit, while being technically sound, rely largely on voluntary compliance and lack uniform monitoring or sanctions for non-compliance. This has resulted in an uneven regulatory landscape in which the responsible operators absorb higher costs.

Space should be sustainable, which means we should be willing to build the ethical governance required to make it so. In space as on the earth, governance that waits for damage before assigning responsibility will arrive too late.

(Shrawani Shagun is a researcher focusing on environmental sustainability and space governance. shrawani.shagun@gmail.com

Abhiram Nair is a space sustainability researcher and entrepreneur shaping the future of responsible orbits. ceo@erets.uk)

BIG SHOT



A drone view shows a skimming boom deployed along the Rio Seco to collect oil after a spill from Pemex's Olmeca refinery, which is recovering fossil fuels in areas within or adjacent to the facility, in Puerto Ceiba, Mexico on March 20. REUTERS

WHAT IS IT?

Entanglement: spooky action

Vasudevan Mukunth

Scientists have shown that helium atoms can be entangled through their movement. A team from Australia and the U.S. collided clouds of helium atoms together to create pairs that shared a single quantum state.

The achievement showed that even 'heavy' particles could follow the same strange quantum physics rules that scientists have mostly observed so far in much lighter particles like electrons. The possibility also opens new ways for researchers to study the link between quantum physics and gravity — a famous unsolved problem in physics.

Quantum entanglement occurs when two particles become so deeply linked that they share a single existence.

The study achieved momentum entanglement, where the link involves the particles' momentum. When scientists collided the atoms, the resulting pairs flew apart. Because of quantum mechanics, neither atom had a definite direction until a detector measured it. However, once they measured the momentum of one atom, they instantly determined the momentum of its partner, no matter how far apart they'd travelled.

In entanglement, one atom does not disappear and reappear elsewhere. Instead, teleportation involves quantum information: when a measurement defines the first atom's state, that information effectively dictates the state of the second atom across the void. Albert Einstein famously called this "spooky action at a distance" because it defies everyday logic. In classical physics, objects usually only affect things directly next to them. Momentum entanglement proves that whole atoms can remain connected through a nonlocal bond.

Scientists have shown that helium atoms can be entangled through their movement. GETTY IMAGES

For feedback and suggestions for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

Court raps Lokayukta IO, officials over blunders, misleading reports

It has asked the officials to show cause why disciplinary action should not be recommended against them

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A special court in Bengaluru has made scathing remarks against an investigation officer (IO) of the Karnataka Lokayukta police and experts from different departments of the State government for "serious investigation lapses," "dereliction of duty," "dishonesty," and "misleading the court," while convicting V. Muniyappa, a former Managing Director of the Karnataka Council for Technological Upgradation, in a corruption case.

The court sentenced Muniyappa, now aged 66, to three years of rigorous imprisonment and imposed a fine of ₹4.50 crore.

The court found that Muniyappa had accumulated disproportionate assets worth ₹4.13 crore – a staggering 170% above his legitimate income – during the check period from December 9, 1982, to July 15, 2014.

K.M. Radhakrishna, judge of the special court for Lokayukta cases under Prevention of Corruption Act, found that Muniyappa had routed his ill-gotten wealth through family members, purchasing multiple properties in the names of his wife, a home-maker, and daughter and son, who were students with no independent income sources, during the relevant check period.

The Karnataka Lokayukta office in Bengaluru. PTI

Analysing quality of probe, the Court pulled up the IO, T.V. Manjunatha, who had filed the charge sheet against Muniyappa, for multiple blunders including failure to investigate crucial assets like gold ornaments and ignoring evidence.

Multiple blunders

The court noted that the IO committed multiple blunders – including failing to investigate the source of 833.9 grams of gold ornaments, worth ₹21.68 lakh then, found during the raid, accepting Muniyappa's self-serving explanations without any verification.

The blunders committed by the IO reveal not only his negligence but also his disregard for investigating the assets and his failure to gather the necessary evidence, the court said. "This kind of conscious lapse not only helps the real culprits escape but also results in acquittals. Such lapses arise from the lack of timely supervision, scrutiny, and control over the investigation by the concerned superiors," the court observed.

Unnecessary delays

Flagging unnecessary delays in investigation, entrusting one case to multiple officers, and varying the quality of investigation based on the accused's status – all of which destroy evidence – the court said these lapses defeat the very purpose of investigation and the PC Act.

Meanwhile, the court also pulled up four government officials – K.N. Kantharaju, an Assistant Director of Statistics, Nagaraju S., an Assistant Director of Agriculture, Narayana Swamy, an Assistant Director of Horticulture, G. Vasudeva, who was a Motor Vehicle Inspector at Indiranagar RTO – for negligence, dishonesty, dereliction of duty, and for misleading the court in their reports on the assessment of Muniyappa's movable and immovable assets.

"This kind of conduct by public servants is totally intolerable. It is time to treat such lapses seriously in the interest of justice," the court said, directing the four officials and the IO to show cause why disciplinary action should not be recommended against them.

Mr. Nagaraju and Mr. Narayana Swamy "appear to have prepared the reports to the satisfaction of invisible hands. In this way, they have not only committed dereliction of duty, but also misled the court by providing baseless information," the court said.

Specific lapses

T.V. Manjunatha: Investigation Officer
The IO failed to verify critical financial claims, accepting unverified hand loans, unexplained bank transactions, and large quantities of gold without inquiry. He neglected to confirm property sale details, accepted an unsupported cash gift, etc.

K.N. Kantharaju: Assistant Director of Statistics
The officer endorsed a report prepared by a subordinate without independent verification. He failed to collect any family-related financial information, assumed expenses during customary periods when expenses were unlikely, and calculated children's expenses as if they were adults. The court found his methodology based on imagination and assumptions, describing his overall approach as careless, irresponsible, and lacking analytical credibility.

Nagaraju S.: Assistant Director of Agriculture
The officer prepared income assessments without visiting the land, relying only on RTCs. His report found ragi and teak crop as against the horticulture report of the same land of Muniyappa which found coconut crop. Without data on tree counts, age, or productivity, his report appeared speculative.

Narayana Swamy: Assistant Director of Horticulture
The officer also failed to inspect the property and relied solely on RTCs. His crop assessment report showed coconut crops contrary to ragi and teak found on the same land mentioned in the agriculture report. The court said that he provided baseless, misleading information, mirroring agriculture officer's deficiencies.

G. Vasudeva: Motor Vehicle Inspector
The officer repeatedly used incorrect formulas while assessing fuel expenses for five vehicles, ignored insurance premiums, and relied on wrong mileage figures instead of certified rates and omitted historical fuel-price accuracy across vehicles. The court found he misled proceedings through flawed calculations, suppressed relevant details, and displayed irresponsibility in every aspect of the vehicle-related assessments.

D. Sudhakar hospitalised

Press Trust of India
BENGALURU

Minister for Planning and Statistics D. Sudhakar was admitted to a private hospital here after his health suddenly deteriorated on Tuesday due to a lung infection, sources in the Chief Minister's Office said.

There was fluctuation in his condition following respiratory problem, they said.

Mr. Sudhakar is being treated in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of a hospital at Yeshwantpur in the city.

The Minister was engaged in his routine office work in the morning as usual. By afternoon, he reportedly experienced severe fatigue and physical exhaustion.

By evening, his condition worsened, prompting staff to rush him to a private hospital.

"The Minister is having lung infection and is in the ICU of the hospital. He is currently stable," a source in the CMO said.

South corporation RWA meet flags Sahaya app glitches, garbage woes

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru South City Corporation Commissioner K.N. Ramesh chaired a monthly meeting with Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) on Tuesday, focusing on the corporation's 2026-27 budget, ward-level development works, and grievance redressal mechanisms.

Mr. Ramesh announced that ₹2.25 crore has been allocated for each ward in the upcoming budget, with an additional ₹75 lakh earmarked specifically for maintenance works. "The corporation is planning a series of infrastructure projects, including flyovers, underpasses, and road widening initiatives, aimed at easing traffic congestion across the city," he said.

Mr. Ramesh said a new system is being introduced to improve accountability and asset management, focusing on enabling citizens to voluntarily monitor corporation-owned properties and assets. RWA representatives raised several concerns during the meeting, including technical issues with the Sahaya app and the 1533 helpline.

They said that the complaints are often marked as "resolved" despite remaining unaddressed. Issues such as building code violations in HSR Layout, delays in desilting storm-water drains, and a shortage of sanitation workers were also highlighted.

Encroachment of footpaths and irregular garbage collection, leading to the emergence of black spots, were among the other major concerns.

Responding to the concerns, Mr. Ramesh stressed that waste segregation at source is mandatory and encouraged volunteers to work with solid waste management teams. He also urged RWAs to partner with the corporation to utilise CSR funds for development works.

Six arrested for murder of habitual offender

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Gauribidanur Town Police have arrested six people, including the victim's wife, in connection with the murder of a 48-year-old man. The deceased, identified as Sadiq alias Shivakumar, 48, a resident of Bisavanahalli village, Doddaballapur taluk, was found dead at his house in Gauribidanur on March 27.

The investigation led to the arrest of six accused, including Reshma, the wife of the deceased. The police said the accused confessed to assaulting Sadiq with wooden reapers at Reshma's residence.

The probe revealed that Sadiq, a habitual offender involved in several robbery and chain-snatching cases, had been harassing and physically abusing Reshma for money. Reshma had shared her ordeal with her brother Sharukh, who confronted Sadiq earlier and allegedly threatened him.

THE HINDU
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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Audit queries ignored by Maharashtra departments

10,340 The Comptroller and Auditor General of India has flagged "systemic deficiencies" in Maharashtra's governance, identifying ₹891 crore in possible financial irregularities across more than 10,000 audit queries that various departments ignored despite repeated reminders over a decade. PTI

The percentage surge in Indonesian forest loss in 2025

66 percent. Forest loss in Indonesia surged by 66 percent in 2025, hitting its highest rate in eight years as a result of weak environmental protections and an ambitious food and energy self-sufficiency drive, an environmental group said on Tuesday. The archipelago leans heavily on mining and palm plantations to support its $1.4 trillion economy. REUTERS

The average monthly mobile data usage per user in India last year

31 GB India's average monthly mobile data consumption per user crossed the 31 GB mark in 2025, up from 27.5 GB in 2024, according to a report by telecom gear maker Nokia. India boasts the world's second-largest 5G subscriber base, the second-highest level of 5G data consumption, and the second-largest 5G Fixed Wireless Access user base globally, the report says. PTI

RBI borrowings availed by Telangana for most of FY25

27,730 in ₹ crore. The Telangana government availed a Special Drawing Facility (SDF) of ₹27,730 crore from the RBI for 363 days to meet its financial requirements. According to the 2024-25 annual account, the State also utilised Ways and Means Advances amounting to ₹64,188 crore for 298 days. PTI

Funds released by the Centre under Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0

1,561.53 in ₹ crore The Jal Shakti ministry has released funds of ₹1,561.53 crore for five States under the Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0 for 2025–26, after signing reform-linked MoUs, and fulfilment of mandatory compliance conditions, an official statement said on Tuesday. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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On global tensions and India's economy

In an economy that imports more than four-fifths of its crude oil, external shocks transmitted through energy prices, shipping route, and volatile commodity markets can significantly reshape fiscal arithmetic. In this context, India must rebalance toward income-led demand, more resilient revenue bases and greater energy diversification

ECONOMIC NOTES

Deepanshu Mohan

Rising geopolitical instability in West Asia is forcing a reassessment of how India's macroeconomic strength is measured.

As of March 2026, this instability has translated into active macroeconomic stress. The rupee has depreciated to a record low of ₹95 per dollar, the Indian basket of crude oil hit $156.29 per barrel, and the Reserve Bank of India has deployed billions of dollars of foreign exchange reserves to contain volatility. In such conditions, strong quarterly GDP prints capture domestic activity but often overlook vulnerabilities linked to energy imports, shipping routes and fiscal buffers.

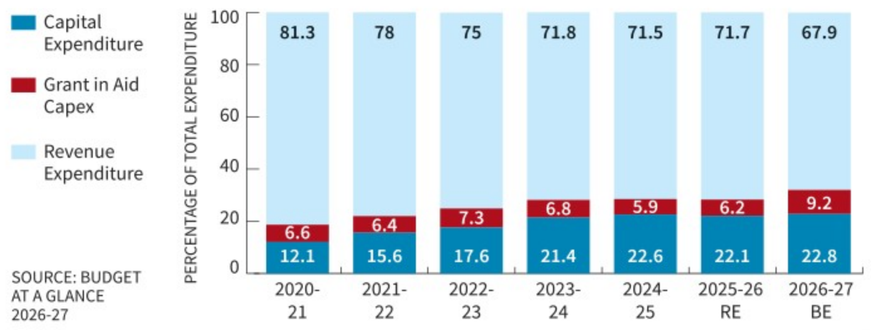
Against this backdrop, India enters the post-Budget season with a striking macroeconomic contradiction. Headline indicators remain robust: the State Bank of India expects Q3 FY26 GDP growth of about 8.1 percent, public capital expenditure is near 4 percent of GDP, and fiscal consolidation toward a 4.3 percent deficit by FY27 remains intact. At the same time, external buffers are weakening. Foreign exchange reserves have declined from recent highs to about $709.76 billion, while foreign portfolio outflows of over $8 billion following the onset of the conflict have intensified currency pressures.

Yet income dynamics are weaker. Real wages remain subdued, household liabilities have risen to roughly 41 percent of GDP, and private investment continues to lag the state's capex-led expansion.

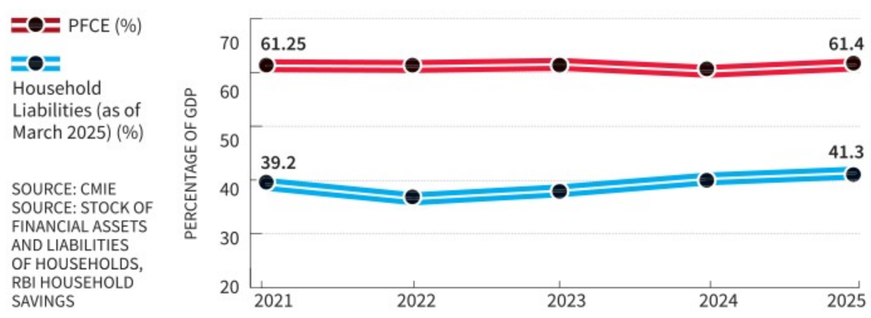
This divergence reflects a deeper shift in India's fiscal architecture: revenue buoyancy is increasingly driven by transaction-linked taxation while expenditure tilts toward capital formation. In a stable global environment this model can sustain growth, but when energy markets become volatile, its durability depends on whether fiscal revenues, consumption and investment can withstand external commodity shocks.

Fiscal trends

India's fiscal stability is tied to capital spending and transaction-based revenues, leaving it vulnerable to energy shocks amid geopolitical tensions



SOURCE: BUDGET AT A GLANCE 2026-27



SOURCE: CMIE
SOURCE: STOCK OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND LIABILITIES OF HOUSEHOLDS, RBI HOUSEHOLD SAVINGS

Shifts in revenue structure

India's revenue structure has been shifting in ways that matter more in a volatile global environment. Revenue receipts have risen from 8.5 percent of GDP in FY16-20 to about 9.1 percent in FY22-FY25 (PA), but the increase reflects recomposition rather than a broadening of income taxation. The Union Budget 2026-27 estimates gross tax revenue at ₹44.04 lakh crore, yet much of the buoyancy now comes from transaction-linked channels. GST collections reached ₹22.8 lakh crore in FY25, while levies on financial and cross-border transactions have also expanded.

Direct taxes typically expand when more workers move into stable paid employment. As a result, revenue growth increasingly depends on the volume of economic transactions rather than income deepening.

External shocks particularly energy price spikes that raise transport costs and compress household spending can quickly slow transactions. In such conditions, a fiscal model reliant on activity-linked taxation becomes more sensitive to geopolitical disruptions that ripple through consumption, trade and financial markets.

This vulnerability has been evident during past shocks. During the pandemic, widening gaps between projected and actual GST revenues forced the Union government to borrow over ₹2.69 lakh crore between 2020 and 2022 to compensate states for revenue shortfalls.

The effects of oil price surge

India's fiscal system remains structurally exposed to oil price volatility. The country imports around 85-87 percent of its crude oil, making it directly vulnerable to external energy shocks.

Empirical estimates suggest that a $10 per barrel rise in crude prices can increase Consumer Price Index inflation by roughly 0.2 percentage points, widen the current account deficit by about $9-10 billion (around 0.4 percent of GDP) and reduce GDP growth by nearly 0.5 percentage points under partial pass-through conditions. Oil shocks also propagate through the fiscal system: higher energy costs raise fertiliser and LPG subsidy requirements, increase transport and logistics costs, and elevate inflation-linked expenditure.

Recent policy responses illustrate this transmission. Following the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the Indian crude basket surged from roughly $59 per barrel in 2019 to over $120 in mid-2022.

To contain inflation, the government reduced central excise duties on petrol and diesel by a cumulative ₹13 and ₹16 per litre between November 2021 and May 2022, resulting in an estimated ₹2.2 lakh crore revenue loss. At the same time, energy-linked subsidies expanded, with fertiliser support rising sharply and total energy subsidies touching nearly ₹3.2 lakh crore.

Amid the ongoing conflict in West Asia, estimates by ICRA suggest that if oil prices average around $100 per barrel, India's current account deficit could widen from about 0.7-0.8 percent to nearly 1 percent of GDP, while government expenditure could rise by as much as ₹3.6 trillion due to higher subsidy and compensation requirements. This underscores how energy shocks translate simultaneously into external imbalances and fiscal stress.

When oil prices spike, governments typically absorb part of the shock through tax reductions and subsidy expansion, compressing fiscal space. In a system increasingly reliant on transaction-linked taxes, such shocks can simultaneously weaken consumption, reduce GST buoyancy and expand expenditure pressures, creating a direct fiscal squeeze.

Impact on households

Household balance sheets reveal a key channel through which energy volatility transmits into the domestic economy.

Private consumption accounts for roughly 61.4 percent of India's GDP, yet household liabilities have risen sharply from about 36-37 percent of GDP in 2022 to over 41 percent by 2025, increasing sensitivity to inflationary shocks and suggesting that consumption is being sustained less by income growth and more through credit expansion.

Net financial savings have also become more volatile, falling to around 3-4 percent of GDP in recent quarters before recovering to about 7.6 percent.

The exposure is being amplified by the current shock, as disruptions to LPG supply chains – over 60 percent of which depend on imports – have translated into longer refill cycles and local shortages, raising household energy costs even as leverage remains elevated.

At the same time, India's expenditure strategy has pivoted toward infrastructure-led growth. The Union Budget 2026-27 places effective capital expenditure at ₹17.15 lakh crore.

While such front-loaded investment strengthens long-term productive capacity, it compresses fiscal space for welfare stabilisers. Allocations for the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act fell to ₹60,000 crore in 2023-24, 33 percent below the previous year's revised estimate; by December 2022, States had already spent 117 percent of available funds, with ₹8,449 crore in pending liabilities.

In a low-wage environment, imported energy inflation compresses real incomes while debt servicing obligations remain fixed. Rising household leverage therefore becomes a macroeconomic vulnerability, especially when fiscal policy prioritises capital formation over income support.

Implications for industrial sector

India's industrial upswing is increasingly concentrated in capital-intensive sectors aligned with public investment. Industrial output rose 7.8 percent in December 2025, with manufacturing expanding 8.1 percent year-on-year and 4.8 percent over April-December. High- and medium-technology industries now account for about 46 percent of manufacturing value added, according to the Economic Survey 2025-26.

By contrast, labour-intensive industries remain weak.

Private investment remains cautious despite rising project announcements.

CMIE (Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy) data shows private firms account for nearly 80 percent of new project announcements, yet only about 9 percent reached completion in 2022-23, suggesting a recovery that expands production capacity more than wage-linked income.

In a volatile global environment, this financial strength has translated into greater risk selectivity rather than broader credit expansion.

The recent LPG crisis induced shortages of commercial cylinders have forced the closure of restaurants, cloud kitchens and small food businesses, with gig worker unions reporting a 50-60 percent decline in food delivery orders. Such shocks disproportionately affect labour-intensive and informal sectors, where incomes are directly tied to daily demand and lack institutional protection, even as capital-intensive sectors remain relatively insulated within the financial system.

As external pressures intensify, they raise a broader question of fiscal optionality: the state's ability to absorb shocks without abandoning consolidation targets. With fiscal space tied to capital expenditure and revenues dependent on economic transactions, geopolitical disruptions can quickly narrow the room for counter-cyclical intervention. In such a context, India must rebalance toward income-led demand, more resilient revenue bases and greater energy diversification, or risk turning external shocks into a recurring source of fiscal stress.

(Deepanshu Mohan is professor and dean, O.P. Jindal Global University. He is a visiting professor at LSE and a visiting academic fellow at University of Oxford. Saksham Raj and Aditi Lazarus contributed to this column.)

THE GIST

- India's fiscal system remains structurally exposed to oil price volatility. External shocks, particularly energy price spikes raise transport costs and compress household spending.
- Private consumption accounts for roughly 61.4 percent of India's GDP, yet household liabilities have risen sharply, increasing sensitivity to inflationary shocks. At the same time, India's expenditure strategy has pivoted toward infrastructure-led growth.
- In a low-wage environment, imported energy inflation compresses real incomes. Rising household leverage therefore becomes a macroeconomic vulnerability, especially when fiscal policy prioritises capital formation.

Directorate of Tourism, Government of Maharashtra

Head Off.: 4th FLOOR, Sakhar Bhavan, Plot no. 230, Ramnath Goenka Marg Nariman Point, Mumbai-400021
Tel.: 91-22-69107600, 91-22-69107604 **E-mail:** asdtourism.pub-mh@gov.in

TENDER NOTICE

Directorate of Tourism is inviting proposals for the following project via its e-tendering system from pre-qualified organizations. Details of the project are as follows details are as below:

Project: Selection of Independent Verification Agency (IVA) for Conducting Impact Assessment of all Activities under the Branding & Marketing Media Plan for Directorate of Tourism, Government of Maharashtra.

E-Tender Schedule: Period for downloading and submitting tenders online **01.04.2026 (05:00 PM) to 07.04.2026 (05:00 PM).** Date and time of opening of Technical proposal **08.04.2026 (05:00 PM).**

Corrigendum: **The above e-tender notices and corrections will be displayed online only.**

Detailed tender instructions and e-tender information are available from the following website **www.mahatenders.gov.in**

Sd/-
Director DoT, Mumbai

Government of Karnataka - Zilla Panchayat
Office of The Executive Engineer,
Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Chikkamagaluru
Ph No.: 08262-220936 e-mail: zpedckm@rediffmail.com
Tender No. 29/2025-26/3rd Call / 3657 Date :27.03.2026

Tender Notice(3rd Call)

Office of the Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Department, Chikkamagaluru District invites tenders through the KPPP portal (kppp.karnataka.gov.in) for improvements to the road from Cheeranahalli Main Road to Danduru Village Road in Cheeranahalli Grama Panchayath, Ajjampura Taluku (Indent No: 20838). Tenders are invited as per the Standard Tender Document KW-2 and should be accompanied by documents regarding the capacity to undertake or manage the work of the estimated amount of Rs. 28.41 lakhs. The date for filling and uploading of documents downloaded from the portal is from 27.03.2026 to 10.04.2026 by 05.30 PM. The Financial Bid will be opened (if possible) on 13.04.2026 at 05.05 PM. If a holiday falls on this date, the next working day will be considered. The tender details can be viewed on the kppp.karnataka.gov.in website. For more details, contact the concerned Subject Manager at the office during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Chikkamagaluru.

DIPR/CKM/KSMCA/25-26/203/02

Executive Engineer
Public Works Department,

No. 1, Buildings Division, SJP Campus, Bengaluru
Ph: 080-22255210
No.: EE/Bld.1/AE-3/AE-LHPA/2025-26/91 Date: 31.03.2026

Invitation for Tender (IFT)

The above Department invites Tenders through e-procurement portal of GoK **(http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** from eligible Tenderers for providing repair and renovation of toilets, partition works, renovation of car parking shed, fabrication, providing toughned glass roof, ACP wall paneling, glazing with UPVC partition, granite flooring, water proofing, painting and polishing, repairs to borewell, providing submersible pump to existing borewell, strengthening compound wall, re-construction of compound wall and other development works, total of 03 works at various notified places. Approx. value of work: **Min. Rs. 11.32 lakhs, Max. Rs. 281.43 lakhs.** EMD: **Min. Rs. 14,200/-, Max. Rs. 4,22,200/-.** Cost of Document: As in e-portal. Period of Completion for each work: **from 2 Months to 6 Months** (including rainy season). Last date for downloading Tender through e-procurement portal and submission through online: **07.04.2026 up to 5.00 PM.** Date of opening the Tender: as per e-procurement guidelines. Further information, brief details of the works, approx. amount, EMD and mode of payment, Reservation, etc. can be obtained from the above office or from e-procurement portal **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer
DIPR/DD-C.P/6518/KSMCA/2025-26

Government of Karnataka
The Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Hassan Division, Hassan.
No: EE/PWD/HSN/AE-3/2025-26/ DATED: 26.03.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION NO: 49/2025-26, Dated: 27.03.2026

Tender is invited by the Public Works Department on behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000, Standard Tender Document KW-4 from the eligible registered Contractors of Karnataka PWD. Tenders Invited through E-Procurement for total Number of 01 Work under PWD, Special Sub Division, Hassan. The Amount put to tender is Rs.129.20 Lakhs Last date & time for receipt of tender is on 08.04.2026 @ 16.00 hours. For more details visit https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in or contact this office through Phone No. 08172-268437 or in person during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD, Hassan Division, Hassan.

ವಾಸಾಸಂ೨/ಹಿಸನಿ/ಹಾಸನ/1240/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಐ/2026–27

Karnataka Public works Department.
Tumkur Division, Karnataka Telephone: 0816-2272479,
No;EE/KPWD/Tmk/AE.1/T.No.62/2025-26 Dt: 26.03.2026

Invitation For Tenders (IFT) KW-3&4
E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

On behalf of Government of Karnataka tenders are invited in Two cover system for Class-3 & above Contractors registered in PWD for 3 work under 4059 CMIDP and 2059 Office Maintenance Head of account in the jurisidiction of Tumkur Division through KPPP-Portal (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in). The dates are published as below.

(Maximum Amount Put to Tender Rs.119.26 Lakhs and Minimum Amount put to Tender Rs.51.09, Maximum EMD Amount Rs.2,00,000/- and Minimum EMD Amount Rs.1,03,809/-)

1. Last date for tender information enqueries : 01-04-2026 :17.30. 2. Last date for submission of tender: 02-04-2026 : 17.30 3. Date of opening the Technical bid: 04-04-2026 : 11.00. 4. Date of opening the Financial bid: 06-04-2026 : 17.00. Note: Turnover Certificate without UDI Number will not be considered. Here after Changes with Refference to This Notification will be Notified in E-Portal Only

Sd/- EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
PWD DIVISION, TUMKUR.

DIPR/TUM/520/KSMCA/2025-26

KMF Karnataka Cooperative Milk Producers' Federation Limited
KMF Complex: Dr. M. H. Marigowda Road, DRC Post, Bangalore-560 029.
Tel: 080-25536625 / 25536789 fax: 080-25536105

IFT No: KMF/ENGG/ 30KLPH Homogenizer to Mother Dairy/02024 Dtd: 31.3.2026

SHORT TENDER NOTIFICATION (2nd Call)
[TWO COVER SYSTEM] [THROUGH KPP PORTAL ONLY]

Karnataka Milk Federation Ltd; Bangalore invites tender from the eligible suppliers/manufacturers/ authorised dealer through KPP Portal for the works mentioned in the table below. The interested manufacturers /Suppliers who have handled similar kind of works may participate in the tender as indicated below, by logging on to website https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in and also contact Help desk E-mail; hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com and helpline no. 080-25501227/ 25501216.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Qty.	EMD in Rs.	Period of Completion
1	Design, Supply, Installation & Commissioning of 30KLPH Capacity Homogenizer & 30KLPH Capacity Pasteurizer & related works to Processing section on buy back basis at Mother Dairy, Yelahanka.	1 Job	6,78,000/-	9 months

1. Tender schedules may be downloaded from dated: 1.4.2026 To 10.4.2026 up to 4.00 PM
2. Pre bid on : 6.4.2026 at 11.00 AM
3. Last date for Tender submission on date: 10.4.2026 up to 4.00 PM
4. Tender [Part 1] to be opened on date: 13.4.2026 at 4:30 PM.

For Karnataka Milk Federation Limited
Sd/- Director [Engineering-2]

Greater Bengaluru Authority
Office of the Special Commissioner (IT & Revenue), Hudson Circle, Bengaluru-560 002.
No.GBA/2025-26/SE0025 Date: 31.03.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Only through KPP Portal)
https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

RFP for Selection of Agency for Establishment & Running of 10-Comprehensive Citizen Service Centres for All GBA & Bengaluru City Corporation Services on BOOT through e-Procurement System.

Sl. No.	Milestone	Date/Reference
1.	Tender Inviting Authority	Deputy Commissioner (IT) Greater Bengaluru Authority
2.	Tender Accepting Authority	Chief Commissioner Greater Bengaluru Authority
3.	Tender Reference	GBA/2025-26/SE0025
4.	Date from which Bid document is ready for download through KPP Portal of Government of Karnataka.	31.03.2026
5.	Last date for submitting clarification if any	08.04.2026 at 11:00 a.m.
6.	Pre bid Meeting	08.04.2026 at 4:00 p.m.
7.	Last date and time for uploading of tender in KPP Portal.	18.04.2026 at 5:30 p.m.
8.	Time and date of opening of tenders: Pre-Qualification & Technical Bid and Technical Evaluation.	21.04.2026 at 11:00 a.m.
9.	Time and date of opening of tenders: Commercial Bid:	After evaluation of the technical bids.
10.	Contact Person for Queries	Deputy Commissioner (IT), Greater Bengaluru Authority Email 1: dy.comm-it@bbmp.gov.in Email 2: dcio-it@bbmp.gov.in
11.	Place of Opening of Tenders and Address for Communication	Office of the Special Commissioner, (IT & Revenue), Greater Bengaluru Authority, Hudson Circle, Bengaluru-560002.
12.	EMD :	Rs.20 Lakhs

Note: Completed tender shall be uploaded through KPP Portal only in the manner described under this tender documents on or before the last date & time stipulated.

Sd/- Deputy Commissioner (IT), Greater Bengaluru Authority

Govt. of Karnataka
Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society, Bengaluru
(An Organisation of Government of Karnataka)
No.8, MSB-1, 6th & 7th Floor, Karnataka Marketing Federation Building, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru-560052.

No: KREIS/EE-1/Tender-28/2025-26 Date: 31.03.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement Only)

The tenders have been invited for **Construction of MDRS Complex in Mallenahalli, Chikkamangalore District and Construction of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Residential School Complex at Gurupura, Mangalore, South Canara District in the jurisdiction of KREIS (Tender Indent No. 612 and 599)** through e-Portal vide website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on **31.03.2026.** The last date for receipt of tenders is **30.04.2026.** The details may be viewed at above website.

Note: Any changes in term tender notification will not be published in dailies. It will be published in e-Procurement portal only.

Sd/- Executive Engineer-1
KREIS

DIPR/CP/YC/6522/2025-26

KARNATAKA SKILL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
(Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
3rd Floor, Koushalya Bhavana, Bannerghatta Road
Dairy Circle, Bangalore -560029, Phone No: 080-29522222
e-mail ID: skilldev.2017@gmail.com

No. KSDC/CMKKY/RAMP/CR-41/2025-26 Dated:31.03.2026

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Karnataka Skill Development Corporation has invited the **"MSME-RAMP"** Tender (Two cover bid system as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act-2000 through e-procurement portal. Bids are invited from the eligible bidders for **"EOI from Private Vocational Training Providers to provide training under the MSME RAMP Scheme.** Tender Document Number: **KSDC/2025-26/PREQUAL_TENDER-NUMBER_8**. Tender Document is Available for download from: **31.03.2026.** Last date for Proposal Submission: **21.04.2026**. The e-tender notification documents & tender processing fees. EMD details are available in e-procurement web portal-https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Helpdesk– : Ph No:+91- 9240214000 /+91- 9240214001 or you may also contact the office during working hours.

Sd/-
Tender Inviting Authority and
Executive Director-3, KSDC, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/6525/CCL/2025-26

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprises)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL, No.1 T.R.Division, Munirabad.

EE/KNNL/No.1 T R Dvn/Mrb/4701/2025-26/3555 Date: 26/03/2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Only through e-procurement system)(Two Cover)

Tenders in Electronic mode on "PERCENTAGE BASIS"are invited, as per KW-3, from eligible contractors registered in the e-Procurement portal of the Public Works Department / KNNL, by the Executive Engineer, KNNL, No.-1 T.R. Division, Munirabad, Koppal District, on behalf of the Managing Director, Karnataka NeeravariNigama Limited (KNNL), Bengaluru, under a Two-Cover System (Cover-I and Cover-II), under Head of Account 4701 pertaining to Head Works Sub-Division, Munirabad, for the following two works, the details of which are given below.

Sl. No	Name of Work	TENDER DOCUMENT	Amount put to Tender (Rs.n Lakh)	Contractor Grade	Closing Date	Opening Date
1	Improvements to left bank canal by providing CC lining and RCC trough in selected reaches in between Ch 4.00km to 8.00 Km in selected reaches of Narihalla dam in Sandur taluk	KW-4	422.01	KPWD Class-II or above	13.04.2026 @ 4:00 PM	15.04.2026 @ 4:30 PM
2	Providing CC Lining and Reconstruction of Structures for Distributory No-5 and Distributory No-6 under RBHLC of Thimmalapura Ayacut roads from Sy no.135 to Veereshappa field, from Sy no. 164 to Banni mahankali temple of Yelubenchi village in Sandurtaluk.	KW-4	419.42	KPWD Class-II or above		
3	Providing Bitumen road to tank bund of Daroji tank and Ayacut road from survey no 585 to Madapura masjid and from Survey no 429 to Kampli road of Daroji village in Sandur Taluk.	KW-4	415.23	KPWD Class-II or above		
4	Providing CC Lining and RCC Trough to Hosa Canal of Daroji tank and Ayacut roads from Sy no.196 to Huligamma field, from Sy no. 153 to Veerabadrappa field, Sy n.303 to Agasara bonesha of Yelubenchi village in Sandur taluk.	KW-4	415.21	KPWD Class-II or above		
5	Providing CC lining and RCC trough to Jeeriganur canal and Repairs to Sluice gates of Daroji tank and Ayacut roads from Sy no 184 to Sy no 161, Sy no 382 to Sy no 373, Sy no 1084 to Sy no 636 and Sy no 65 to Sy no 262 of Daroji village in Sandur taluk.	KW-4	419.46	KPWD Class-II or above		
6	Providing CC Lining and RCC Trough to Jogapatti and Tayamma Canal of Daroji Tank in Sandur Taluk.	KW-4	416.91	KPWD Class-II or above		
7	Improvements to Service Road from 0.00 to 6.50 Km of M2 Distributary of RBLLC under Kampli Constituency	KW-4	169.47	KPWD Class-III or above		
8	Improvements to Ayacut roads under command area of D5 and D6 of RBHLC in Sandur taluk.	KW-4	194.87	KPWD Class-III or above		

The Pre bid meeting will be held at Chief Engineer, KNNL, ICZ Munirabd office, on **01.04.2026** at 11.30 A.M. For more information visit web site at (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) & contact undersigned office in all working days during office hours and also via email:trdmrb@gmail.com.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
KNNL No.1 T.R.Division, Munirabad

DIPR/Koppal/780/KSMCA/2025-26

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public at large that my client is intending to purchase and acquire all right, title and interest with respect to the following scheduled property, at Chudenapura Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore Urban District more fully described in the Schedule below from its owner being Sri. B.K. Sridhar, S/o. Sri. Bhadrachar.

Any persons having or claiming or intending to claim any right, title, claim, interest or objection of whatsoever nature in respect of the scheduled property or any part thereof whether by way of sale, ownership, transfer, exchange, charge, encumbrance, assignment, gift, tenancy, sub-tenancy, lease, sub-lease, possession, covenant, license, lien, inheritance, mortgage, possession, pledge, charge, trust, maintenance, donation, easement or otherwise, howsoever are hereby requested to notify in writing to the undersigned, *within a period of 7 (seven) days* from the date of this publication of this Notice, of his/her/its such claims, if any, together with all supporting documents duly verified in that regard, failing which the rights and title of the property shall be deemed to be clear, valid and marketable, undisputed and unencumbered and the claim(s), if any , of such person/entity shall be treated as waived and/or not binding on my client and/or abandoned and my Client shall proceed with the proposed acquisition of the property.

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY

ALL THAT piece and parcel of Residential converted Vacant Site bearing No.01, BBMP Khata No.358/1084/10/2-1, in the Residential Layout formed out of Survey No.10/1, 10/2 and 10/7, measuring East to West 56+59/2 feet and North to South 29+32/2 feet, totally measuring 1753 Sq. ft, located in "V Lake View", situated at Chudenapura Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore Urban District and bounded on:

East by : Private Property; *West by :* Road,*North by :* Private Property; South by : Site No.2

Adv.Abymoan J,
No.48, 1 st Cross, Dinur Main Road,
RT Nagar Post, Bengaluru – 560 032
Date : 01/04/2026

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
(Public Works Department)
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Public Works Department, Division: Yadgir.
GSTIN:29BLR002252F1DR

No.EE/PWD/Divn/YDG/TS-1&3/e-Tender/2025-26/ 3693, Dated:31.03.2026

Short Term e-Tender Notification

1) Details of works: On behalf of Governor of Karnataka as per KTPP Amendment 1999-2000 Act 2000 Standard Bid Document KW-2 & 4 Karnataka Public Works Department invited item Rate Tender under KPPP Portal in Two Cover System from Eligible Agency/Contractors for following works Under CMIDP (SCP & TSP), KRDCL and 5054 Appendix-E for the year 2025-26 Under Yadgir Taluka-(1)34936 & (2)34869, Shorapur Taluka 1)34281& 2)35122 Total 2 (Two) works Tender Called **2) Amount Put to Tender:** Miminimum Rs 25.00 Lakhs and Maximum Rs.770.00 Lakhs **3) Contractor Eligible Details:** Civil Class-IV & Above **4) Tender Procesing Fee and EMD Details:** Tender Fee, EMD & Period as per kppp portal, **5) Last Date & Time for Tender Pre-Bid Meeting:** 08.04.2026 (11.30 hrs Onwards) **6) Last Date & Time for Tender queries/Clarification:** 10.04.2026 (Upto 17.30 hrs) **7) Last Date & Time for Reciept of the tender in e-KPPP portal:** 15.04.2026 (Upto 16.00 hrs) **8) Date & Time of Opening of the Tender/Technical Bid:**17.04.2026 (11.30 hrs Onwards) **9) Date & Time of Opening of the Financial Bid:**21.04.2026 (11.30 hrs Onwards) **10) For More Details Contact: Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Division :** Yadgir. **11) Website Address:** https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

NOTE:Any Corrections / Changes will be updated in the kppp Portal only

DIP/YDG/618/KSMC&A/2025-26

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
PWD Division, Yadgir.

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited
(A Joint Venture of GoI & GoK)
E-mail: pdretail@bmrc.co.in, Website: www.bmrc.co.in

No: BMRCL/A(PD)/LFS-1/2025-26 Date: 31.03.2026

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

KPP Portal Ref. No.: BMRCL/2025-26/SE0042
BMRCL Tender No.: BMRCL/A(PD)/LFS-1/2025-26 Dtd.: 31/03/2026
Name of the Tender: Request for Proposal (RFP) for Grant of License for Development and Operation of a Large-Format CBD Destination Commercial and Experience Space at MG Road Metro Station.

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has invited bids from interested parties via e-Tender through the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** for licensing of Large-Format CBD Destination Commercial & Experience Space at MG Road Metro Station. The Key Dates of Tender is as mentioned below;

1	**Tender Notification No. and date**	BMRCL/A(PD)/LFS-1/2025-26, Dtd.:31/03/2026
2	**Date from which Bid document is ready for download through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal of Government of Karnataka (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)**	31.03.2026
3	**Last date for seeking clarification, if any.**	21.04.2026 before 5:30 P.M.
4	**Date of Pre-bid Meeting and venue.**	23.04.2026 at 11:30 A.M. at BMRCL Conference Hall, 3rd Floor, BMTC Complex, Kengal Hanumanthaiah Road, Shantinagara, Bengaluru-560 027
5	**Last date and time for uploading of Bid in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal platform**	05.05.2026 before 5:00 P.M.
6	**Date and time of opening of tenders: Technical Bid & Technical Evaluation**	06.05.2026 after 5:30 P.M.

Sd/- Director (Finance)

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SURENDRAN B & my Wife Surekha Devi S, residing at #5A Surya Nilayam 13th Main road MICO Layout, Begur Road, Hongasandra, Bengaluru 560068, hereby state that our minor daughter S Shruthilaya, d/o Surendran B and Surekha Devi S, mentioned in school records as Shruthiaya S instead of S Shruthilaya. Her correct name is S Shruthilaya. Both names refer to one and the same person only. and the Name has been rectified vide affidavit dated 26.3.2026 before Notary B M Chandrashekar Bengaluru

I, Akthar Ahmed S/O, R Abdul Subhan R/o No 99/1 Kogilu Layout Near St Michel School Kogilu Yelahanka Bangalore-560064 have changed my name to Mohammed Akthar Ahmed.

I, RUPAL Kiranbhai Tank, w/o: Jatin Chauhan, r/o: D–4, Gunina Mellow, 3rd Block, J P Nagar, 8th Phase, Kothanur, Dinne, Blr – 560076. Have Changed My Name As Rupal Jatin Chauhan.

I, SUMITA Agiwal, resident of #2091, Sobha Indraorastha, Minerva Mill Compound, Rajaji Nagar, Bangalore 560023, have changed my name to Sumitra Agiwal vide Affidavit dated 19th December 2025.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SUNANDA.S, W/o Krishna Kumar. K.S, R/at No.30, Nandhini Deluxe Apts, 5th Main 3rd A Cross Hanumagiri Nagar, Chikkalasandra Bengaluru-560061, have changed my name from Sunadnamma.S to Sunanda.S vide affidavit dated 26-03-2026 sworn before Notary Gangaraju.B.N, B'luru

I, THRIVENUKUMAR Seenappa, Divya Tripuranthakam Satish Babu, parents of Aditya Thrivenukumar Seenappa, Villa No 3, Cedar Drumpellier, Inner Circle, Whitefield, Blr – 560066. Changed My SON's Name From Aditya Thrivenukumar Seenappa To Aditya Thrivenukumar For All purposes.

I, SURENDRAN B & my Wife Surekha Devi S, residing at #5A Surya Nilayam 13th Main road MICO Layout, Begur Road, Hongasandra, Bengaluru 560068, hereby state that our minor son S Sree Samarth, s/o Surendran B and Surekha Devi S, mentioned in school records as Sree Samarth instead of S Sree Samarth. His correct name is S Sree Samarth. Both names refer to one and the same person only. and the Name has been rectified vide affidavit dated 26.3.2026 before Notary B M Chandrashekar Bengaluru.

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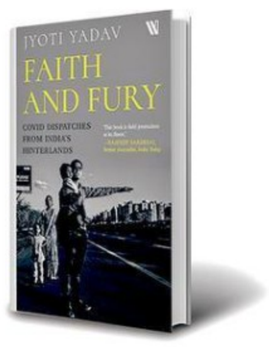
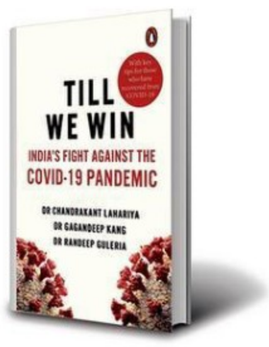
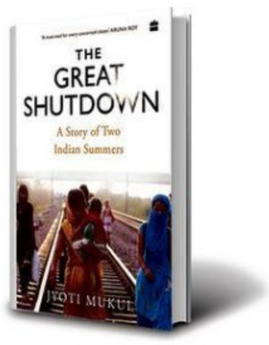






GETTY IMAGES

Looking into the continuing costs of India's COVID-19 policy

Six years since the COVID-19 pandemic, the question that three books collectively pose is not whether India's response succeeded or failed; the evidence on that is substantial. It is whether those who bear the costs of policy failure have been taken seriously enough

Vignesh Karthik K.R.

It was around this time six years ago that Indians were given just four hours' notice before a rigid 21-day, nationwide lockdown to combat the spread of COVID-19. Several countries, including the U.K., New Zealand, Sweden, have since held formal inquiries into their pandemic responses. In India's case, no such inquiry has taken place, but a body of writing has accumulated, something like an unofficial reckoning.

Three books, arriving across five years, are worth reading together: Dr. Chandrakant Lahariya, Gagandeep Kang, and Randeep Guleria's *Till We Win: India's Fight Against the COVID-19 Pandemic* (Penguin Random House), Jyoti Mukul's *The Great Shutdown: A Story of Two Indian Summers* (HarperCollins), and Jyoti Yadav's *Faith and Fury: COVID Dispatches from India's Hinterland* (Westland). Together, these cover the clinical, the systemic, and the human.

Logistical failures

The lockdown's most immediate consequence was the disruption of transport. Mukul, a former journalist-turned-policy analyst, argues that the snapping of transport links was not a side effect of the pandemic response, but its most defining feature. The Indian Railways suspended all its daily passenger services with no plan for the millions already in transit. The Shramik Specials, when they finally ran weeks later, charged a fare till political pressure mounted. People who could not wait walked.

Yadav's reportage follows individual lives over years. Five years in the making, thousands of kilometres across Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, it tracks people such as the teenager Jyoti Kumari, who cycled 1,200 kilometres with her injured father (now deceased) during the lockdown. She is still unable to enrol in college.

The same logistical failures that stranded passengers also broke the oxygen supply chain. Mukul documents the second COVID-19 wave with particular precision: beds, ICU capacity, and ventilators all fell between September 2020 and January 2021, when the government declared victory, by between 30% and 46%. The Pressure Swing Adsorption oxygen plants recommended for all major hospitals numbered 38 installed, against a target of 500 when the second wave peaked.

The science of it

Lahariya, Kang, and Guleria, three medical practitioners at the centre of India's pandemic response, arrived in the thick of events. Their account, published in November 2020, notes the policy's public health logic. Dedicated to ASHA workers and oriented around community health infrastructure, the book keeps the clinic and the field hospital in view.

On the science, the insider account is honest. They narrate the hydroxychloroquine arc, from global excitement to systematic disproof, without defensiveness. Their final call for Universal Health Coverage and expanded community participation reads differently now than it did in spring 2021. The second wave made every gap the authors identified more visible. What was a call to action became, in retrospect, a forecast.

Problem of counting

At the centre of the pandemic was a problem of counting. In 2025, the Office of the Registrar General confirmed that India recorded 1.02 crore registered deaths in 2021, a disproportionate 25.9% increase from the previous year. Yadav had been tracing this issue for five years – not through statistics, but through cremation ground registers she coaxed out of a Lucknow municipal staffer, documenting 101 cremations on a day the State claimed only 14 COVID-19 deaths. She also visited villages where families buried their dead in the fields because the neighbourhood feared contagion.

She embeds herself so deeply in individual lives that the numbers arrive as the culmination of a face and a name. There is Kalyani Agrahari, an eight-months pregnant schoolteacher who applied in writing for exemption from panchayat poll duty, was threatened with an FIR, spent 12 hours on duty, and died two days before her third wedding anniversary. Her widower Deepak appears in the book's final pages, training to become a peon because the compensation he was promised never came.

Yadav also writes, with some candour, about being a woman journalist on those roads; no hotels, no toilets, an episode of harassment she insists on reporting to a sceptical Station House Officer. This is not a personal aside. It is part of a broader argument that ground reporters were neither protected nor counted as frontline workers, and that some 500 of them died doing the work that produced much of what we now know.

The uncounted dead, the uncounted workers, the uncounted journalists – the pattern holds across all three books. Mukul's transport data; Lahariya, Kang, and Guleria's clinical framework; and Yadav's years of follow-up all converge on the same point: the Indian state's capacity to not count what it does not wish to acknowledge.

The pandemic failed to become a poll issue. Yadav notes that people in villages remembered it as divine intervention, not state failure. This muted response is perhaps the most significant finding across all three books, more significant than the oxygen numbers or the excess mortality data now in the public domain.

Six years on, the question these works collectively pose is not whether the pandemic response succeeded or failed; the evidence on that is substantial. It is whether those who bear the costs of policy failure have been taken seriously enough. That question remains open and might not be answered.

(Vignesh Karthik K.R. is a postdoctoral research affiliate of Indian and Indonesian politics at KITLV-Leiden and research affiliate at King's India Institute, King's College London)

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

From medieval calendar quirks to famous media hoaxes, April 1 has inspired centuries of elaborate pranks and cultural curiosities

Prathmesh Kher

QUESTION 1:
Which ancient Roman spring festival, celebrated in late March with disguises and mockery, is sometimes proposed as a precursor to April Fools' traditions?

QUESTION 2:
In France and several Francophone regions, what name is given to the person tricked on April 1, traditionally marked by secretly attaching a paper fish to their back?

QUESTION 3:
Which Renaissance writer recorded early French references to April-1 foolery in his satirical works?

QUESTION 4:
In a famous April Fools' radio prank in 1976, which planet was falsely said to align with Pluto and briefly reduce gravity on Earth?

QUESTION 5:
Which medieval English poet's work contains one of the earliest debated references to an April-1 style prank?

This 19th-century ticket invites visitors to which famous April Fools' hoax? PUBLIC DOMAIN

Questions and answers to the previous day's daily quiz:

1. This gentleman, who opposed the rule of Mohammad Reza Shah Pahlavi, was forced to leave and settled in the village of Neauphle-le-Château near Paris in 1978. Name him. **Ans: Ayatollah Khomeini**
2. This former U.S. intelligence contractor fled to Hong Kong after releasing classified information about global surveillance programs. He was eventually granted asylum in Russia. **Ans: Edward Snowden**
3. This revolutionary and Red Army chief was forced into exile after losing a political struggle in the post-Vladimir Lenin Soviet Union. **Ans: Leon Trotsky**
4. This gentleman was granted asylum by Ecuador but could not leave the UK, and therefore remained in the Ecuadorian embassy in London between 2012 and 2019. Name him and the organization he is best known for. **Ans: Julian Assange, Wikileaks**
5. Identify this high-ranking British spy who was later revealed to be a member of the Cambridge Five, a spy ring that passed information to the Soviet Union during the Cold War. **Ans: Kim Philby**

Visual: Identify the former Black Panthers activist from the U.S. who received asylum in Cuba. **Ans: Assata Shakur**

Early birds: K.N. Viswanathan | Sudhir Thapa | Pulkit Sathe | Haridas Pal | Shailbala Kumari

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

S. Upendran

What is the meaning of "stay put"? (D. Arumugam, Salem)

When someone tells you to "stay put", they want you to remain where you are; they don't want you to move around. It's an expression used in informal contexts.

Priyanka told Rahul to stay put in the car while she changed the tyre. (She told Rahul to remain seated in the car.)

Because of the trouble in the city, we stayed put in the hotel for three days. (We remained in the hotel for three days. We didn't step outside.)

What is the pronunciation of "entrepreneur"? (R. Devarajan, Chennai)

The first syllable "en" is pronounced like the word "on". The "e" in the second and third syllable is pronounced like the "a" in "china", "about", and "amount". The "eur" in the final syllable "neur" sounds like the "or" in words like "worm" "world". The stress is on the final syllable. The word is pronounced entrepreneur.

Dictionaries define an entrepreneur as someone who starts a business in order to make a profit.

What is the meaning and origin of the expression "Pyrrhic victory"? (Dr. N. L. N. Moorthy, Hyderabad)

First, let's start with the pronunciation. The "y" in the first syllable is like the "i" in words like "sit" and "bit". The "rrhic" sounds like the "rick" in words like "brick" and "cricket". The stress is on the first syllable. In the expression "Pyrrhic victory", however, the main stress is on the first syllable of "victory".

King Pyrrhus of Epirus in Greece invaded Italy in 280 B.C. He had plans of conquering the country. During his campaign against the Romans, Pyrrhus won many battles. After defeating the Romans at Aschulum, the King apparently said, "Another such victory and we are undone"; the reason being that he lost many of his soldiers in the battle. Pyrrhus' army became so depleted that he was forced to return to Greece without ever setting foot in Rome.

Though the King won many battles, he ultimately lost the war! So when you refer to something as being a "Pyrrhic victory", it implies that you have suffered so many losses that the victory pales into insignificance.

What is the difference between "glimpse" and "glance"? (A. V. R. Rao, Amalapuram)

When you "glance" at something, you look at it very quickly and then look away. For example, when we get stuck with a bore, every once in a while, we glance at the clock or the watch. We don't keep looking at the clock/watch because we don't want to be rude. We take a quick look (glance) at the watch and turn our attention to the speaker – and pretend to be interested in what he is saying. A glance is intentional; you deliberately look in a particular direction.

Ashok glanced at the headlines while waiting for the bus.

When you catch a "glimpse" of something, you catch a quick sight of it. For example, while you are in the jungle, you may catch a glimpse of a tiger. In other words, you see the tiger very briefly. You may or may not see it completely. In the case of "glimpse", it is the object which appears before our eyes. In the case of "glance", it is the eyes which go to the object.

I caught a glimpse of Kamal in the crowded room.

Published in The Hindu on February 22, 2000

Word of the day

Petulant:
easily irritated or annoyed

Synonyms: cranky, fractious, nettlesome

Usage: *The actor's petulant response drew sharp criticism online.*

Pronunciation: https://newsth.live/tfwk6l

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈpɛtjʊlənt/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Lokayukta pulls up civic bodies over poor waste management

It has been summoning officials from all five corporations and reviewing their performance

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Taking serious note of improper solid waste management across Greater Bengaluru, Karnataka Lokayukta Justice B.S. Patil has initiated *suo motu* proceedings and expressed strong dissatisfaction over the functioning of civic bodies.

The Lokayukta has been periodically monitoring the issue by summoning officials from all five municipal corporations under the Greater Bengaluru Authority and reviewing their performance.

On March 30, Justice Patil conducted a surprise inspection along with the Lokayukta police officials at several locations, including Gottigere near Decathlon, the stretch between NIMHANS and Minerva Circle, Anjanapura, J.P. Nagar 9th Phase, and SER Residency 4th Cross.

The Lokayukta observed that heaps of garbage piled up along roadsides in several areas could pose serious health risks to the public. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

During the inspection, he observed heaps of garbage piled up along roadsides in these areas, reflecting poorly on the functioning of the municipal corporations and the Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML). He expressed concern that such negligence could pose serious health risks to the public.

Following the inspection, the Lokayukta directed that an urgent summons be issued to the Chief Executive Officer of BSWML, instructing them to appear before the authority on April 2, at 3.30 p.m. with a detailed report on the lapses.

Additionally, the Deputy General Manager and Assistant General Managers of BSWML have also been summoned to appear for the hearing. The matter has been scheduled for further inquiry on April 2 at 3.30 p.m.

Plan for convention centre on Mysore Lamps land opposed by residents

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Amid growing concern over the future of the 22-acre Mysore Lamps factory site at Malleswaram following the State government's Budget proposal to develop an international convention centre there, residents and civic groups have opposed the move, urging that the land be preserved as a "public green space." Around the call to "leave Mysore Lamps alone" and protect a "green lung" from turning into a "concrete jungle," the residents will be protesting on April 1, opposing the proposal.

The citizen groups in the area have also written to the GBA West Corporation, highlighting that the Mysore Lamps factory, established in 1936, stands on land that was historical-

A view of The Mysore Lamp Works Ltd. fiactory premises in Bengaluru. FILE PHOTO

ly part of the Malgal Valley reserve forests, which once spanned large parts of Yeshwanthpur and surrounding areas.

The factory has remained shut since 2002-03. Over the past two decades, with no active industrial use, the campus has seen significant natural regeneration, with residents and citizen groups pointing to dense tree cover and visible biodiversity across the site.

A walk organised by the Malleshwaram Swabhimana Initiative in 2010 had recorded over 100 trees of significant girth within the premises, a point residents cite to argue that the land may meet the criteria for classification as a 'deemed forest'.

In their letter, residents have requested the State government to have a meeting with citizens and consider declaring the land a "public urban forest" or "deemed forest. They have also sought that the existing factory structures be preserved and repurposed for public use, instead of the land being diverted for private real estate or other forms of development.

Preeti Sunderajan, one of the representatives, said that the site is among the last remaining large green spaces in the locality, particularly after the loss of other open lands in the area to commercial and residential projects. She added that the existing tree cover contributes to local cooling and could serve as part of a broader green corridor connecting neighbourhoods such as Sadashivanagar and Sankey Tank.

Residents have also pointed to the steady diversion of forest and plantation lands across north Bengaluru over the decades, including in areas such as Peenya, Hebbal, and Jakkur for industrial, institutional, and residential use. Against this backdrop, they contend that the Mysore Lamps land represents a remaining fragment of the older Malgal Valley ecosystem.

Netravati waterfront project works being executed by Mangaluru Smart City Limited, near the railway bridge, in Mangaluru.

'Strictly follow CRZ norms while executing Netravati project'

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

Mangroves located on the 2.1-km stretch were destroyed during the excavation process, the NECF says

The Southern Bench of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) at Chennai disposed of applications challenging the execution of Netravati Waterfront Promenade Project by Mangaluru Smart City Limited (MSCL), directing the agency to strictly adhere to the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 2011, the conditions imposed in the CRZ clearance, and all other applicable statutory provisions, to ensure seamless execution of the project.

Passing the order on March 24, Judicial Member Pushpa Sathyanarayana and Expert Member Prashant Gargava cautioned MSCL, "The Project is already under the radar of not only this tribunal, but also environmental activists."

MSCL is executing the project between Netravati railway bridge and Bolara seaface over a length of 2.1 km.

Landward side

Castigating MSCL for dumping debris on the river bank, the Tribunal said MSCL ought to have been aware that the project area falls within both prohibited and permitted coastal zones. "Hence all the proposed structures, such as the toilet block, food kiosk, and ticket counter, are directed to be aligned on the landward side of the old structure constructed prior to 1991."

Non-compliance to NOC

National Environment Care Foundation (NECF), Mangaluru, through its General Secretary Shashidhar Shetty, had petitioned the tribunal, alleging non-compliance of conditions in the No Objection Certificate granted by the Karnataka State Coastal Zone Management Authority on October 7, 2022. Two *suo motu* applications registered by the NGT Principal Bench on the basis of news reports, that were transferred to the Southern Bench, too were disposed off.

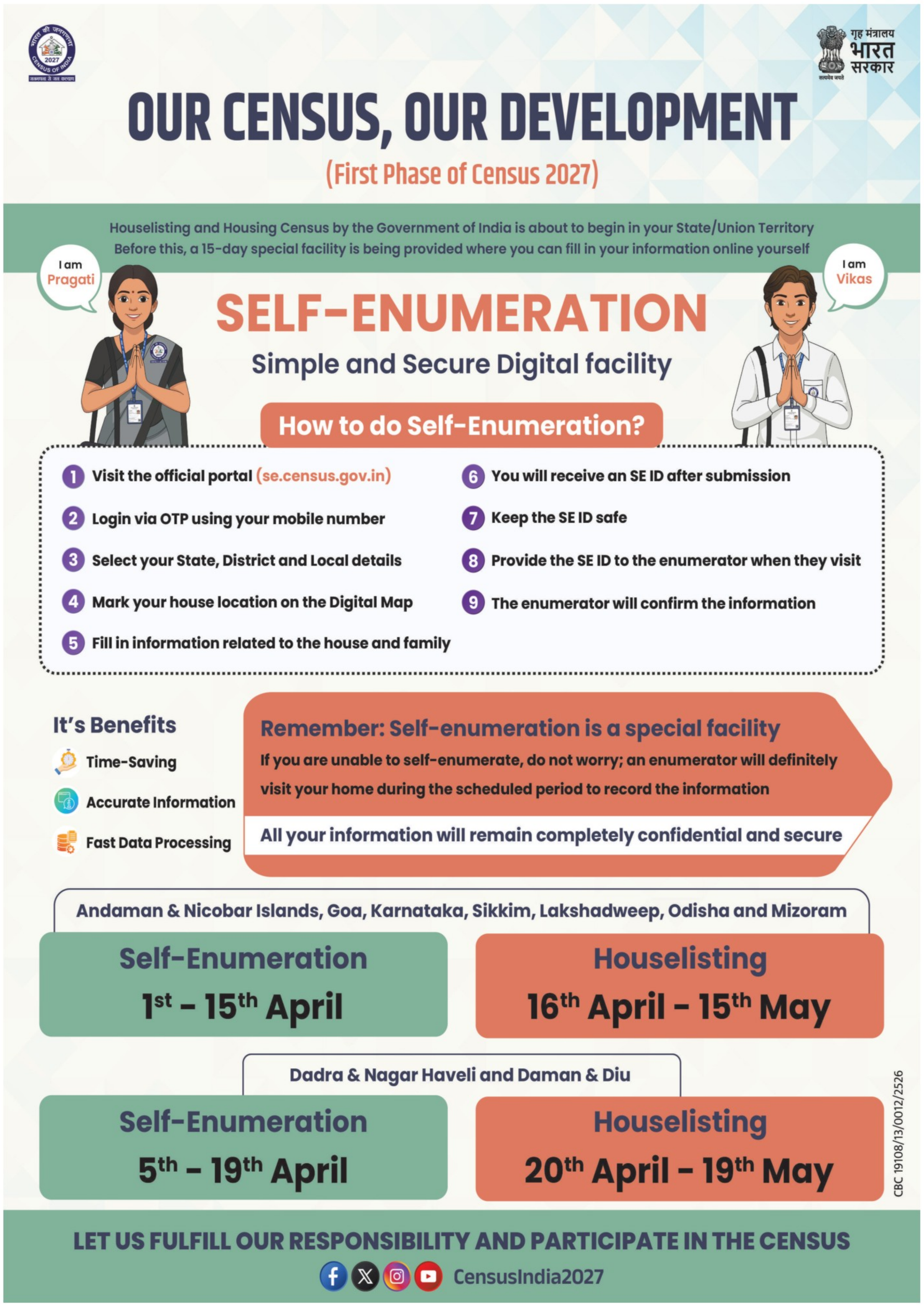
NECF had said the stretch of the riverfront was not suitable for a recreational project as floods could affect visitors during the monsoon. Boat-building yards and fishing activities were affected by the project. MSCL excavated the riverbank up to a depth of one metre, and filled it with black stone and concrete to construct a revetment. Mangroves located on the 2.1-km stretch were destroyed during the process, the NECF had argued.

Joint committee report

A joint committee comprising representatives of Central Pollution Control Board, the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, the Dakshina Kannada District Magistrate, and the National Centre for Coastal Research visited the site on June 11, 2024. The committee filed a report on June 20, 2024. It said the debris dumped in the river bank was removed and used for back-filling, while MSCL admitted it was done by mistake.

The committee stated that mangroves existed only in patches, as per approved Coastal Zone Management plan and local CRZ map prepared by the Institute of Remote Sensing, Anna University. No significant mangrove damage was observed during the inspection.

The tribunal closed two interlocutory applications filed by NECF on which the tribunal had earlier said MSCL could execute work only on the landward side.



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ISSN 0971 - 751X

KUWJ annual awards for 2024 announced

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Union of Working Journalists (KUWJ) has announced its annual awards for the year 2024, recognising journalists across various categories.

Among the awardees is Afshan Yasmeen of *The Hindu* and Vikhar Ahmed Sayeed of *Frontline*, who have won the K.N. Subramanya Award in the English Newspaper Reporting category.

Conference

The awards will be presented at the 40th State Journalists' Conference to be held in Bidar on April 11 and 12, KUWJ State president Shivanand Tagadur and general secretary G.C. Lokesh said in a release.

Dutch national held for sending bizarre 'ritual' package to KIA

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Airport authorities were left puzzled after receiving a large carton containing rotten tomatoes, decaying flower garlands, pieces of iron, a toothpaste cover, and nude photographs. FILE PHOTO

The International Airport Police on Tuesday arrested a 65-year-old Dutch citizen of Indian origin for allegedly sending a bizarre package containing rotten vegetables, garlands, and obscene photographs to the administrative office of Kempegowda International Airport earlier this year, police said.

The accused, identified as Subhash Hajij, a Dutch national holding an Overseas Citizen of India card, is suspected to have sent the package in January as part of a ritual intended to ward off untoward incidents at the airport.

Airport authorities were left puzzled after receiving a large carton containing rotten tomatoes, decaying flower garlands, pieces of iron, a toothpaste cover, and nude photographs of men and women. After deliberating over the contents for several weeks, officials lodged a complaint with the airport police on March 4.

Based on CCTV footage, the police tracked down Hajij and took him into custody for questioning.

"He claims he had no ill intention and sent the package to ensure that no tragic incidents occur at the airport. He also claims to have sent similar packages to other airports. We are verifying his claims," a senior investigating officer said.

The police said Hajij, who has Indian roots, was born in a South American country and is fluent in multiple languages, including Dutch, German, Spanish, English, and Hindi.

He reportedly worked in Europe for several years before retiring. He has been travelling across countries using his pension and frequently visits India, though he has no known relatives here.

In Bengaluru, he was found sleeping near a temple in Madiwala. The police said he has also travelled extensively across Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, and Maharashtra.

Based on CCTV footage, the police tracked down the accused and took him into custody

During questioning, officers suspected that Hajij may be mentally unstable.

"He is currently in judicial custody. We have approached the court to subject him to a medical examination to determine his mental health condition. So far, there is no indication that he intended to create mischief," the officer added.

The police have booked him under the Karnataka Prevention and Eradication of Inhuman Evil Practices and Black Magic Act, 2017. Further investigation is under way.

Timings
BENGALURU

WEDNESDAY, APR. 01		
Sun	RISE 06:16	SET 18:31
Moon	RISE 18:00	SET 05:33
THURSDAY, APR. 02		
Sun	RISE 06:15	SET 18:31
Moon	RISE 18:48	SET 06:09
FRIDAY, APR. 03		
Sun	RISE 06:15	SET 18:31
Moon	RISE 19:37	SET 06:46

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	20
Mysuru	34	21
Bengaluru	33	22

Bengaluru Today
33ºC The weather will be day. Day will be warm. Night will be slight cool.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
34ºC Morning will be pleasant. Day will be warm. Night will be pleasant. Dry weather to occur.

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THE HINDU
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KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(RAICHUR THERMAL POWER STATION)
CIN: U85110KA1970SGC001919

No. KPCL/2025-26/SE0340 Date: 20.03.2026

BRIEF SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Two Cover System) (Through e-Procurement portal only)

KPCL invites tenders from the contractors/agencies who are reputed individuals/ Company and having past experience for the work of **Providing Mobile Hydraulic Crane of 14 T capacity for various maintenance divisions at RTPS and for plant activities including crew charges, operational and maintenance charges etc., at RTPS complete with all leads and lifts on hourly basis for a period of 01 year-extendable by 01 more year on satisfactory completion of work.** EMD: **Rs.54,800/-**. Last date for submission of tender: **04.04.2026, 16.30 Hrs.** The detailed notification can be obtained by logging on to GoK e-proc. website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Further details can be obtained from the office of the **Executive Engineer (HMT)**, KPCL, RTPS, Shaktinagar-584170, Raichur Dist. Mobile: 82775 02708 during office hours.

Greater Bengaluru Authority
Office of the Special Commissioner (IT & Revenue), Hudson Circle, Bengaluru-560 002.

No.GBA/2025-26/SE0023 Date: 31.03.2026

TENDER CANCELLATION

The tender vide reference number GBA/2025-26/SE0023 has been cancelled due to technical reason and new tender is published.

Sd/- Deputy Commissioner (IT), Greater Bengaluru Authority

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
ZILLA PANCHAYATH, BELLARY
Office of the Executive Engineer, P.R.E. Division, Bellary.

No. EE/PRED/BLY/AE-1/Various Heads/2025-26/ 2185
Dt. 25-03-2026.

Short Tender Notification (Through KPPP Portal only)

On behalf of Hon'ble Governor of Karnataka tenders are invited from the eligible contractors who have enrolled in Panchayath Raj Engineering Department for 02 works comprising of approved Road, and Bridge works under 2025-26 CMIDP Works through KPPP portal.

Indent No.
1.RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT25503
2.RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT25476

Contractors are required to submit the tender before **02-04-2026 at 4.30 PM** by uploading the relevant documents through KPPP portal website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in by downloading the formats for submission of tenders from **25-03-2026 to 02-04-2026 at 4.30 PM.** Tenders will be opened through KPPP portal on **04-04-2026 at 10.30 AM** Any changes in the notification will be published KPPP website only. Accepting/rejection of tenders without assigning reason is reserved. Any details can be obtained in person at the office or through telephone No. 08392-266173.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division Ballari

DIPR/Ballari/1196/KSMCA/2025-26

CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
MULBAGAL, KOLAR DISTRICT-563131
Phone No:08159-242044, Email:ka.mulbagilu.cmc@gmail.com, website:www.mulbagalcity.mrc.gov.in

No.CMC/MBL/TECH/20/2025-26 Dated:25.03.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Mulabagal CMC has invited tender under the SFC Special Grants and Municipal Fund. Item rate is invited in two bid system through E-Procurement Portal only as per the GO. No.FD/06/PCL/2006, Bangalore from the Registered, Eligible Contractors. For details visit **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** The Indent Numbers details below.

Sl. no	Work Indent No	Estimate cost (Rs.in lakhs)
1	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT 43192/CALL3	9.80
2	DMA/2025-26/SE7585	47.10
3	DMA/2025-26/SE7586	47.54
4	DMA/2025-26/SE7587	30.48
5	DMA/2025-26/SE7588	35.06
6	DMA/2025-26/SE7589	37.25
7	DMA/2025-26/SE7590	48.50
8	DMA/2025-26/SE7591	8.84
9	DMA/2025-26/SE7592	5.67
10	DMA/2025-26/SE7593	5.67

(1) Tender submission form through E-procurement
(2) Technical Bids opening date through E-procurement
(3) Financial Bid Opening date through E-procurement

Sd/- Municipal Commissioner, CMC, Mulbagal.

DIPR/KOLAR/RO:559/KSMCA/2026-27

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಪಂಡಿತ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ, ಶಿರಸಿ(ಉ.ಕ)–581401
PANDIT GENERAL HOSPITAL, SIRSI (N.K) 581401
ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 08384–229936, Email ID: pghsis@gmail.com

ದಿನಾಂಕ: **27.03.2026**

ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ

ಪಂಡಿತ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ, ಶಿರಸಿಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ ತಾಯಿ ಮತ್ತು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ, ಶಿರಸಿಗೆ 2026–27 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗಾಗಿ ಒಳ ರೋಗಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಿದ್ಧಪಡಿಸಿದ ಪಥ್ಯಾಹಾರ **(Ready Meal)** ಹಾಗೂ ಬ್ರೆಡ್ ಸರಬರಾಜು ಮಾಡಲು ಹಾಗೂ ಅರ್ಹ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ, ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಂದ ಇ–ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣಾ ವೇದಿಕೆ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮೊತ್ತ: ರೂ. 68.40 ಲಕ್ಷ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿ: 18.04.2026 (ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ ಸಂ: **NO:PGHS/DIET TENDER/01/2025-26** ದಿ: 27.03.2026.

ತಾಯಿ ಮತ್ತು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ, ಶಿರಸಿಗೆ 2026–27 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗಾಗಿ ವಿವಿಧ ವೃಂದಗಳ 16 ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿಗಳ ಮಾನವ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಸೇವೆಯನ್ನು ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಮೇರೆಗೆ ಪಡೆಯುವ ಕುರಿತು ಅರ್ಹ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ, ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಂದ ಇ–ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣಾ ವೇದಿಕೆ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮೊತ್ತ: ರೂ. 39.57 ಲಕ್ಷ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿ: 18.04.2026(ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ ಸಂ: **No:PGHS /MCHS/MAN POWER/TENDER/02/25-26** ದಿ:27.03.2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನಮೂನೆಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ, ಇ.ಎಮ್.ಡಿ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಷರತ್ತು /ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮತ್ತು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಡಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಆಡಳಿತ ವೈದ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು
ಪಂಡಿತ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ, ಶಿರಸಿ(ಉ.ಕ)

DIPR/KWR/KSMCA/1267/25-26 dt. 31.03.2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that my clients, Mrs. Pooja Gadge and Mr. Ankur Kushwaha, intend to purchase the Schedule property from its present owner **Mr. D. J. Jagadish,** son of **Mr. C. Jayanna** in the layout known as **"Krishna Northwoods".** Anybody having any objection for the sale may write to the undersigned within 7 days with documentary proof failing which my clients will proceed to complete the sale and objections received thereafter is not binding upon my clients.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of immovable property being a residential Villa, bearing **No. 39** with plot area measuring **1749.69 sq. ft.,** along with Villa comprising of ground, first and second floor totally measuring **3387 sq. ft.** superbuilt up area carved out of **Sy. No. 75/3B,** situated at **Chokkanahalii village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk** and bounded on the:

East by: Road, West by: Plot No. 43, North by: Plot Nos. 40 and 41, South by: Plot No. 38.

Vatsala S. Dhananjay
Advocate
L 01, Valencia, 4th Main, Shubh Enclave, Haralur Road, Bangalore - 560 102
Phone: 98457 84175
e-mail: 1.vatsala@gmail.com

Bangalore
01-04-2026

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ
ಟಿ. ಚೌಡಯ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಕುಮಾರ ಪಾರ್ಕ್ ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು – 560 020.

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಬೆಂಅಪ್ರಾ/ಅಭೂಸ್ವಾಅ/730/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ:31.03.2026

ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರವು ಸಂ.BDA/Commr/DC(LA)/ALAO/10/2002-03, ದಿನಾಂಕ:14.12.2001 ಮತ್ತು ಸಂ. BDA/Commr/DC(LA)/ALAO/09/2002-03, dated:15.04.2002ರಂತೆ ಸರ್.ಎಂ.ವಿಶ್ವೇಶ್ವರಯ್ಯ ಬಡಾವಣೆಗಾಗಿ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಕೆಂಗೇರಿ ಹೋಬಳಿ, ಸೂಣ್ಣೇನಹಳ್ಳಿ, ರಾಮಸಂದ್ರ, ಕೊಮ್ಮಘಟ್ಟ, ಕೆಂಗೇರಿ, ಮತ್ತು ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಉತ್ತರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಯಶವಂತಪುರ ಹೋಬಳಿ, ಉಲ್ಲಾಳು ಗ್ರಾಮ, ಮಂಗನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಗ್ರಾಮಗಳಲ್ಲಿನ ಜಮೀನನ್ನು ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನಪಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 1976ರ ಕಲಂ.17(1) ರಂತೆ ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ನಂತರ ಅಂತಿಮ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಯುಡಿಡಿ/654/ಎಂಎನ್‌ಎಕ್ಸ್/2002 ದಿನಾಂಕ:31.10.2002 ರಂದು ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ನಂತರ ಮುಂದುವರೆದ ಸರ್.ಎಂ.ವಿಶ್ವೇಶ್ವರಯ್ಯನಗರ ಬಡಾವಣೆಯ ಸಂ.ಬೆಂ.ಅ.ಪ್ರಾ/ಆ.ಯು/ವಿ.ಅ.ಭೂಸ್ವಾಅ/79/2003–04, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು, ದಿನಾಂಕ:08.04.2003 ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆಯಂತೆ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಉತ್ತರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಯಶವಂತಪುರ ಹೋಬಳಿ, ಹೇರೋಹಳ್ಳಿ, ಗಿಡದಕೋನೇನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಮತ್ತು ಮಲ್ಲತ್ತಹಳ್ಳಿ ಗ್ರಾಮಗಳಲ್ಲಿನ ಜಮೀನುಗಳನ್ನು ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನಪಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 1976ರ ಕಲಂ.17(1) ರಂತೆ ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ನಂತರ ಸಂ.ನಅಇ/749/ಬೆಂಭೂಸ್ವಾ/2003, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಿನಾಂಕ:09.09.2003 ರಂದು ಅಂತಿಮ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನಕ್ಕೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟಿರುವ ಜಮೀನುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ರೆವಿನ್ಯೂ ನಿವೇಶನದಾರರು ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ.ಜುಂಜಮ್ಮ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರರು ಮಾನ್ಯ ಉಚ್ಚ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯದಲ್ಲಿ ರಿಟ್ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಂ.42483–517/2002, ಮತ್ತು ರಿಟ್ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಂ.16221–222/2003 ಆದೇಶದ ಮಾರ್ಗಸೂಚಿಗಳನ್ವಯ ರೆವಿನ್ಯೂ ನಿವೇಶನಕ್ಕೆ ಬದಲಿ ನಿವೇಶನ ನೀಡುವ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದಿಂದ ನಿಗದಿತ ನಮೂನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಮತ್ತು ನೊಂದಣಿ ಕಾರ್ಡ್ (Registration Card) ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಅವಕಾಶ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸಲಾಗಿತ್ತು. ದಿನಾಂಕ:09.12.2002 ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ ಮತ್ತು ದಿನಾಂಕ:2.11.2014 ರಂದು ಮತ್ತೊಮ್ಮೆ ಅವಕಾಶ ನೀಡಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಉಚ್ಚ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯದ ಆದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಿಸಿರುವಂತೆ, ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆಗೆ ಮುಂಚಿತವಾಗಿ ಶುದ್ಧ ಕ್ರಯಕ್ಕೆ ಪಡೆದಿರುವ ರೆವಿನ್ಯೂ ನಿವೇಶನದಾರರಿಂದ ನಿಗದಿತ ನಮೂನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಮತ್ತೊಂದು ಹಾಗೂ ಅಂತಿಮ ಅವಕಾಶ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸಲು ಉದ್ದೇಶಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಅರ್ಹ ರೆವಿನ್ಯೂ ನಿವೇಶನದಾರರಿಗೆ ನಿಗದಿತ ನಮೂನೆಯ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕೆನರಾ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್, ಬಿಡಿಎ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಕಛೇರಿ ಆವರಣದ ಶಾಖೆಯಿಂದ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅವಕಾಶ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಪೂರ್ಣ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ ರೆವಿನ್ಯೂ ನಿವೇಶನದಾರರು ನಿಗದಿತ ನಮೂನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡಿರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ, **ದಿನಾಂಕ:06.04.2026 ರಿಂದ 04.07.2026 ರವರೆಗೆ** ಅವಕಾಶ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಮತ್ತು ನೋಂದಣಿ ಕಾರ್ಡ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿರುವ ರೆವಿನ್ಯೂ ನಿವೇಶನದಾರರಿಗೆ ಎರಡನೇ ಬಾರಿಗೆ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಅವಕಾಶವಿರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಸದರಿ ಬಡಾವಣೆಯ ಕಂದಾಯ ನಿವೇಶನದಾರರ ಹಿತದೃಷ್ಟಿಯಿಂದ ಮತ್ತೊಮ್ಮೆ ಸದರಿ ಜಮೀನುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆಗೂ ಮುಂಚೆ ರೆವಿನ್ಯೂ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳನ್ನು ಕ್ರಯಕ್ಕೆ ಪಡೆದಿರುವ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆಗೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟಿರುವ ಜಮೀನುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ರೆವಿನ್ಯೂ ನಿವೇಶನದಾರರು ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಕುಮಾರ್ ಪಾರ್ಕ್‌ರಲ್ಲಿ **ದಿನಾಂಕ:04.07.2026 ರ** ಒಳಗಾಗಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು. ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿದ ದಿನಾಂಕದ ನಂತರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲಾಗುವ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಸದರಿ ದಿನಾಂಕದ ಒಳಗಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದ್ದು, **ದಿನಾಂಕ:04.07.2026 ರ** ನಂತರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ ಹಾಗೂ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸದೇ ಇರುವ ರೆವಿನ್ಯೂ ನಿವೇಶನದಾರರು ಮಾನ್ಯ ಉಚ್ಚ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯದ ಆದೇಶದಂತೆ ಬದಲಿ ನಿವೇಶನಕ್ಕೆ ಅರ್ಹವಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಕಂದಾಯ ನಿವೇಶನದಾರರು ಬದಲಿ ನಿವೇಶನಕ್ಕೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬೇಕಾಗಿರುವ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳ ವಿವರ

1. ಪೂರ್ಣ ಅಂಚೆ ವಿಳಾಸ ನಮೂದಿಸಿರುವ ನಿಗದಿತ ಅರ್ಜಿ (ಪೂರಕ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ)
2. ಸ್ವ ವಿಳಾಸ ಆಧಾರ್ ಕಾರ್ಡ್ ಪ್ರತಿ,
3. ಸಹಿ ಮತ್ತು ಭಾವಚಿತ್ರ ದೃಢೀಕರಣ ಪತ್ರ (ಗೆಜೆಟೆಡ್ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳಿಂದ ದೃಢೀಕರಿಸಿರುವ)
4. ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಕ್ರಯಪತ್ರದ ದೃಢೀಕೃತ ನಕಲು
5. ಜಿ.ಪಿ.ಎ ಹಾಗೂ ಕರಾರು ಪತ್ರದ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಖರೀದಿದಾರರಿಗೆ ಅನ್ವಯಿಸುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.
6. ಅರ್ಜಿದಾರರಾಗಲೀ ಅಥವಾ ಅವರ ಅವಲಂಬಿತ ಕುಟುಂಬ ಸದಸ್ಯರ ಹೆಸರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಬೇರೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ನಿವೇಶನ / ಮನೆ ಹೊಂದಿರದ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಪತ್ರವನ್ನು ನೋಟರಿಯವರಿಂದ ದೃಢೀಕರಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವುದು.
7. ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರವು ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿರುವ ಚಾಲ್ತಿ ನಿವೇಶನದ ಮಾರ್ಗಸೂಚಿ ದರ ಪಾವತಿಸುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಒಪ್ಪಿಗೆ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಪತ್ರ (ನೋಟರೈಸ್)
8. ಮಾಲೀಕತ್ವಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಇತರೆ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳು
9. 30 ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಅವಧಿಯ ಋಣಭಾರ ಪತ್ರ (ಫಾರಂ ನಂ.15, 16 ರಲ್ಲಿ)
10. ರೆವಿನ್ಯೂ ಬಡಾವಣೆ ನಕ್ಷೆ (ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂಬರ್ ಮತ್ತು ರೆವಿನ್ಯೂ ನಿವೇಶನ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯಿರುವ)
11. ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗೆ/ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಇಲಾಖೆಗೆ ಪಾವತಿಸಿರುವ ಕಂದಾಯ ಪಾವತಿ ರಸೀದಿ.
12. ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ 10 ವರ್ಷಗಳಿಂದ ವಾಸವಾಗಿರುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ದೃಢೀಕರಣ ಪತ್ರ
13. ಇತರೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳು.

ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ/ವಾಟ್ಸ್‌ಪ್: 9483166622 (24x7). @BDAOfficialGok

ಸೂಚನೆ:

✓ ನಿಗದಿತ ನಮೂನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ, ನಿಗದಿತ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಹಾಗೂ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಕಾರ್ಡ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ರೆವಿನ್ಯೂ ನಿವೇಶನದಾರರಿಗೆ ಮಾತ್ರ ಬದಲಿ ನಿವೇಶನಕ್ಕೆ ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

✓ ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಮತ್ತು ನೋಂದಣಿ ಕಾರ್ಡ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿರುವ ರೆವಿನ್ಯೂ ನಿವೇಶನದಾರರಿಗೆ ಎರಡನೇ ಬಾರಿಗೆ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಅವಕಾಶವಿರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಅಪರ ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನಾಧಿಕಾರಿ, ಬೆಂ.ಅ.ಪ್ರಾ., ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

PUBLIC NOTICE

THAT our clients have agreed to purchase the **SCHEDULE PROPERTY** from **RK COMMERCIALS, partnership firm, Represented by Partner RAJGOPAL KASHINATH,** S/o.Late Sri N S Raja Gopal, No.751, 5th Cross Road, 10th Main Road, 2nd Block, Banashankari 1st Stage, Bangalore-560 050 and have informed that it is the absolute owner and in possession of schedule property & any person/s, financial institutions and or any other authorities asserting any claim, right, title or interest over the same or part thereof in any manner or against the owner of the schedule property or objecting to the same, should file the objections to the undersigned within **SEVEN days** from today with all the documentary proof on which he/she/ they are basing and asserting rights & after which period our clients shall proceed further to complete the sale transaction & any claims or objections received thereafter will not be entertained and or binding over the schedule property and also on our clients.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF the property bearing **No.1101, situated at 24th Main Road, I Phase, J P Nagar, Bangalore, measuring East to West 90 ft. (27.432 Mtrs.) & North to South 60 ft. (18.288 Mtrs) in all measuring 5400 sq. ft. (501.676 Sq.Mtrs.) Corporation Ward No.178 Sarakki, E-PID No.7779386453, (PID No.57-27-1101),** comprising of basement floor, ground floor, mezzanine floor, first floor, second floor, third floor & terrace floor **totally measuring 23450 sq.ft,** and bounded on the:

East By: 24th Main Road,
West By: Property bearing Nos.1118 & 1119,
North By: Property bearing No.1102,
South By: Property bearing No.1100.

S. J. SANGHVI &
Manjappa V- Advocates,
#518, Avenue Rd, B'lore-560002
Cell: 98440-97226

Bangalore
31.03.2026

BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru - 560 020

No. BDA/EE-South/work_TN-06 /2025-26 Date:31.03.2026

NOTICE INVITING SHORT TERM TENDER (ITEM RATE TEDER UNDER TWO COVER SYSTEM)
(Through GOK e- Procurement platform http://Kppp.karnataka.gov.in)

1. The Executive Engineer, South Division, Bangalore Development Authority invites tenders from eligible tenderers for the works detailed in Table below:

Sl. No.	Name of work	Approx cost put to tender Rs. in lakhs	EMD in Rs.
1	Comprehensive Developments of Roads Drains and Providing Basic Amenities at JP Nagar 8th Phase 1st Block, Kothnur Village Survey No. 3/1, 3/2B and 4 [Indent No.BDA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT232]	116.61	**1,75,000/-** (Rs.1,00,000/- through E payment and Rs.75,000/- through Bank Guarantee)
2	Improvements to Road and Drain in J.P.Nagar 9th Phase, 3rd & 4th Block & FE of Anjanapura 9th Block, Bengaluru. [Indent No.BDA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT233]	131.83	**1,98,000/-** (Rs.1,00,000/- through E payment and Rs.98,000/- through Bank Guarantee)

Tender processing fee: As per e-procurement portal. **Time for completion:** (For Sl.No.1 and 2) **9 Months (including Monsoon)**

Calendar of Events	Date	Time
1. Last Date and Time for Tender Queries/Clarifications.	**10.04.2026**	**17.00 hrs**
2. Pre-Bid Meeting	**06.04.2026**	**10.00 hrs**
3. Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tenders.	**13.04.2026**	**17.00 hrs**
4. Date and Time for Opening of Technical Bid.	**15.04.2026**	**10.00 hrs**
5. Date and Time for Opening of Financial Bid.	**18.04.2026**	**11.00 hrs**

For Details, Registration and e-Payment, visit GoK e-Procurement Website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact: 25501216/25501217.

Helpline / Whatsapp: 9483166622 (24x7) @BDAOfficialGok

Sd/- Executive Engineer, South Division, BDA, Bengaluru

BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION
THE COMMISSIONER OFFICE, BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION
Amruthhalli Main Road, Byatarayanapura, Bengaluru - 560092

No:BNCC /Comm/PSR(G)/383/2025-26 **FORM-III (see sub-rule (3) of rule 3)** **Date: 31-03-2026**

PUBLIC NOTICE

In exercise of powers conferred under section 14-B of the Karnataka Town and Country Planning Act 1961 the following Area mentioned in the schedule below is required by **The Commissioner,** BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION for **Construction of Storm water Drain from Yalahanka lake Waste Weir via Kogilu Cross to Jakkur lake CH:0.00 mtr to 2700.20 mtr Width of 35 mtr.**

The following land / building owners have opted for Development Rights in lieu of monetary compensation under the Right to Fair Compensation and transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013. The Development Rights will be given by the Authority as twice the land area surrendered and two times the building area surrendered and as estimated by the value of the building area surrendered (valuated as per PWD norms) divided by the market value of the land on which the building is constructed.

The public is hereby informed about the details of the land and land owners and interested persons whose lands are required for the public purpose and Development Right Certificate (DRCs) are to be issued in lieu of monetary compensation. Any objections and suggestions are to be addressed to the Jont Commissioner, Zone-2, MEI Layout Hesarughatta Road, Bagalugunte, Bengaluru within thirty days from the date of publication of this Notification.

List of Land / Building area surrendered and landowners for which DRC is to be issued.

Name of the District: **Bengaluru Urban** Name of the Taluk: **Yalahanka** Name of the Village: **Venkatala**

Sy. No/ Kha-tha No.	Type of Land		Nature of Land	Dimension of the Land/ Plot & Extent in Sq.M		Boundaries of the Land / Plot				Building Details			Present Activity on Land/Building (Specify Specific activity such as Shop, Office, Factory, Apartment, Individual house etc.,	Market (guide -lines) value of the land Per Sq.M	Name and address of the owner of the plot/Land for Which DRC is to be issued
	Vacant	Built up	Agriculture Converted undeveloped Approved Layout / developed Land Building Site	Dimension	Extent	East	West	North	South	Extent in Sq.m	Type of Construction & No.of Floors	Floor Area Ratio			
Sy No.34/2	Vacant Land		Developed		3996.21	Yelahanka village boundary or Sy No.33	Sy No. 34/3	Sy No. 34/1	Yelahanka village boundary	-	-	-	-	40,000.00	**Venkatesh.B.S S/o Srinivasaiah on Behalf of M/s Anvaya Properties**

Note: Market guideline value of this property is considered subject to conditions of payment of fee as per Government Order No. :ನಅಇ 137 ಎಂಎನ್‌ಯು 2024 (ಇ), ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು, ದಿನಾಂಕ:09.09.2024 and as per the Circular No.ಆಯುಕ್ತರು/ಪಿ.ಎಸ್.ಆರ್/ಜಿ/1802/2024–25, ದಿನಾಂಕ: 21.09.2024

Objections and suggestions may be submitted at the address specified below:

Name and address of the divisional / Sub divisional / branch offices	Joint Commissioner , Zone-2, MEI Layout, Hesarughatta Road, Bagalugunte, Bengaluru-560073.

Sd/-Commissioner, Bangalore North City Corporation

Awareness low on colorectal cancer among Bengalureans, finds survey

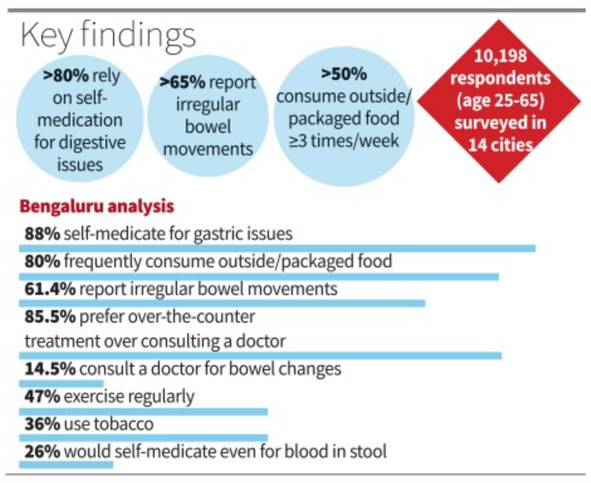
It indicates reliance on self-medication and delayed medical consultation, and highlights hesitation in seeking timely care

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

An analysis of a nationwide lifestyle and digestive health survey has flagged low awareness of colorectal cancer and widespread digestive health concerns among Bengalureans.

The findings indicate a high reliance on self-medication and delayed medical consultation, raising concerns about late diagnosis of serious gastrointestinal conditions. March is observed globally as Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month.

In Bengaluru, of the 937 respondents surveyed, 88% reported managing gastric issues such as acidity, gas, and indigestion through self-medication. Around 80% said they frequently consume outside or packaged food, while 61.4% reported irregular bowel movements. The Bengaluru findings are part of a broader survey conducted across 14 Indian cities among 10,198 individuals aged 25 to 65 years. The study, supported by Merck Specialities Pvt. Ltd., a pharma company, pointed to rising digestive health concerns and low awareness of colorectal cancer across urban India.



The survey found that awareness levels remain low, with over 80% of respondents failing to recognise blood in stool as a warning sign of colorectal cancer. A majority, 85.5%, said they would opt for over-the-counter remedies or lifestyle changes if bowel habits changed for a few weeks, while only 14.5% would consult a doctor.

Digestive symptoms were widely reported, with nearly 81% experiencing a sensation of incomplete bowel evacuation at times. Lifestyle-related risks were also evident, with only about 47% reporting regular exercise and 36% reporting tobacco use.

The survey also highlights hesitation in seeking timely care. While 33% cited lack of time as a barrier, fear and embarrassment together accounted for about 50% of responses. Notably, 26% said they would consider self-medication even in cases of blood in stool.

Family history

While 77.8% were unaware that serious digestive diseases can develop without pain, family history of gastrointestinal conditions, including bowel cancer and inflammatory diseases, was reported by 23.5% of respondents, though hereditary risks remain under-recognised.

Suresh Babu MC, Director and Lead Consultant, Medical Oncology, Krishna Institute of Medical Sciences, said colorectal cancer often begins as polyps in the colon or rectum that can become cancerous if untreated. He emphasised that symptoms such as persistent changes in bowel habits, blood in stool, abdominal discomfort, fatigue, and unexplained weight loss should not be ignored, and that screening through colonoscopy enables early detection.

Mansi Khanderia, lead consultant, Medical Oncology, Sparsh Hospitals, said frequent consumption of packaged and outside food, along with sedentary lifestyles, increases digestive health risks.

Rising heat forces change in office time in North Karnataka

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

In view of the rising temperatures during the peak summer months, the State government has revised working time for government offices in select districts of North Karnataka starting Wednesday.

According to an order issued by the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms, the new working hours will be from 8 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. for April and May 2026.

The revised time will be applicable to all districts of Kalaburagi Division and to Vijayapura and Bagalkot districts in Belagavi Division.

The order has been issued by Under Secretary Vimalakshi B.

It stated that government employees must discharge their duties without any disruption during the revised working hours.

Ex-employee stabs manager to death

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 30-year-old manager of a plastic factory was allegedly stabbed to death by a former employee following a dispute in Rajagopalnagar on Monday.

The victim has been identified as Rahul. The accused, Hanumantha, a former employee at the same factory, has been arrested.

According to the police, the accused was reportedly upset over work-related issues. A heated argument broke out between the two, which escalated into violence. The Rajagopalnagar police arrested the accused.

Woman ends life after finding husband dead

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A techie couple was found dead at Kothanur in Bengaluru on Tuesday.

The deceased have been identified as Bhanu Chander Reddy Kunta, 32, and Bibi Shaziya Siraj, 31, both natives of Telangana, who moved to the city in August 2025. The couple had been married for over five years and had no children. The police said they were in a live-in relationship before getting married.

According to preliminary investigation, Chander allegedly ended his life in their residence when Shaziya had reportedly gone out. When Shaziya returned home, she found her husband dead. She is suspected to have jumped from their apartment on the 17th floor of the building.

A note, believed to have been written by Chander, was found in the residence. The police said the couple had been facing marital differences and mental stress. Chander worked abroad before he lost his job and returned to India in 2025. He was reportedly unemployed and was undergoing treatment for mental health issues. Shaziya had recently taken up a new job at a multinational company in the city.

Two cases of unnatural death have been registered.

(If you are in distress or having suicidal tendencies, please reach out to these 24/7 helplines: KIRAN at 1800-599-0019 or Arogya Sahayavani at 104 for help.)

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
(A Government of India Undertaking)
Head Office: Bangalore

Specialised ARM Branch I Bengaluru

ADVERTISEMENT IN RESPECT OF TRANSFER OF STRESSED LOAN EXPOSURE OF M/S RAFAH-UL-MUSLIMEEN EDUCATIONAL TRUST TO THE PERMITED ENTITIES (PERMITTED ARCS/NBFCs/Banks/FIs) BY PARTICIPATING IN E-AUCTION UNDER SWISS CHALLENGE PROCESS

Canara Bank invites Expression of Interest ("EOI") from eligible ARCs/NBFCs/Banks/ All India Financial Institutions (collectively "Permitted Entities" or "Bidders") in terms of extant guidelines from the Reserve bank of India (RBI) on transfer of Stressed Loan Exposures ("RBI MD"), as amended from time to time and the Bank's internal Board approved policy, for transfer of stressed loan exposures of **M/S Rafah-Ul-Muslimeen Educational Trust** with **Canara Bank** outstanding of the Fund Based Limits amounting to **Rs.88.06 Cr (Rupees Eighty Eight Crore Six Lakhs Only) as on 30.03.2026** plus further interest and charges etc., through e-Auction under Swiss Challenge Method on "All Cash" basis with a minimum Reserve Price of **Rs.21.80 crore (Rupees Twenty One Crores Eighty Lakhs Only)** on "As is where is", "As is what is", "Whatever there is" and without recourse basis.

Canara Bank shall not assume any operational, legal or any other type of Risks relating to the loan exposure and shall not be providing any representations or warranties for **M/S Rafah-Ul-Muslimeen Educational Trust.** All interested eligible participants are requested to submit their willingness to participate in the e-Auction by way of an EOI and executing a Non-Disclosure Agreement, if not executed earlier. Last date for submission of EOI is **04.04.2026.** Interested bidders can access Canara Bank website for web notice and can get further details on **www.canarabank.com** by clicking on tenders.

Interested parties may contact undersigned

Contact Person	Contact Details	e-mail ID
Mr Ranjan Kumar	+91 9483544116	cb2366@canarabank.com

Please note that e- Auction process envisaged in this advertisement shall be subject to final approval by the Competent Authority. Further, Canara Bank reserves the right to cancel, modify, amend or withdraw any of the terms of this advertisement and process document at any stage and/or disqualify any eligible party, at any stage without assigning any reason whatsoever and without any liability by uploading the corrigendum on the website and the decision of Canara Bank in this regard shall be final and binding. This is not an offer document and is being issued with no commitment.

Date : 31.03.2026
Place: Bengaluru

Issued by
Canara Bank, Specialised ARM-I Branch, Bengaluru

IN THE COURT OF HON'BLE PRINCIPAL SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE, SURENDRANAGAR, DIST. -SURENDRANAGAR (GUJARAT STATE) DISTRICT COURT BUILDING, OPP. TAGORE BAUG, SURENDRANAGAR.
:- PUBLIC SUMMONS TO OPPONENT :-
COMM.C.S.No. 5/2024

M/S. VAISHALI AUTO ENGINEERING,
C/o, At. 110 Phase I, GIDC, Wadhwan city Dist. Surendranagar ....APPLICANT
V/S: M/S. HIGH HEAT FURNACES
C/o, At. No. 38 A Guniagrahara village, Shivakotte post, Hessarghatta Hobli, Bangalore - 560089. .....OPPONENT

Sub: Suit Valued at Rs.34,20,000=00/-

To, Defendant,

Whereas the above named applicant has filed the above Said Suit against you for Recovery of **Rs.34,20,000=00/-** in this court. Whereas the service of Summons/Notice could not be effected in the ordinary manner and whereas the application for publication of Public Summons has been allowed by this court. You are directed to appear before this court in person or through an advocate and file Written Statement/Say **on 20th April, 2026 at 10:30 A.M.** and show cause as to why reliefs prayed for should not be granted.

Take notice that, in default of your appearance on the day before mentioned the suit will be heard and determined in your absence. Given under my hand and seal of this Court on this **26th day of November 2025.**

By Order of the Court, Registrar,
Pri. Sr. Civil Court, Surendranagar (Gujarat)

PUBLIC NOTICE

This notice is issued on behalf of My client **Smt.Veena K L W/o Dayanand K O D/o Lokeshappa** to bring the notice of the general public that following Original registered sale deeds are Lost/Misplaced as: **1.** Sale deed doc. No.6663/1989-90 of Book-I, dated. 15.03.1990/ 17.03.1990, and **2.** Sale deed doc. No.3998/94-95 of Book-I, dated. 29.07.1994, both deeds are registered in the office of the sub-registrar Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore, are missing /lost/ misplaced in respect of schedule property. If any person/s, firm, company, institution or organization has any claim are holding the afore mentioned document or schedule property, they may contact the undersigned in writing within **7 days** from the date of this notice failing which it will be presumed that there are no claims.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing as **Site No.12,** Khanesumari No.601/637, presently BBMP E-Property No.540/601/637/12, **EPID No.1696857243,** measuring West: **30 feet** and North to South: **65 feet,** total measuring **1950 Sq.feet,** situated at **Sanjeevini Nagar, Hegganahalli Village, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk,** now comes under the Limits of BBMP, Bangalore and bounded on :-

East by : Property No.11, West by : Property of Lakshmamma, North by : Road, South by : Other Property.

H. Prahlada, Advocate & Solicitor,
For H.P.Law, #2, 3rd Floor, Venkateshwara Complex, Yeshwanthpur, Bangalore-560022
M : 7760061073

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ
ಟಿ. ಚೌಡಯ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಕುಮಾರ ಪಾರ್ಕ್ ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು - 560 020.

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಬೆಂಅಪ್ರಾ/ಅಭೂಸ್ವಾಅ/731/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 31.03.2026

ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರವು ಸಂ. ಬೆಂಅಪ್ರಾ/ಆಯು/ಉಆ(ಭೂಸ್ವಾ)/ಅಭೂಸ್ವಾ/158/2008–09, ದಿನಾಂಕ: 21.05.2008 ರಂತೆ ನಾಡಪ್ರಭು ಕೆಂಪೇಗೌಡ ಬಡಾವಣೆಗಾಗಿ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಉತ್ತರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಯಶವಂತಪುರ ಹೋಬಳಿಯ ಶೀಗೆಹಳ್ಳಿ, ಕನ್ನಲ್ಲಿ, ಕೊಡಿಗೇಹಳ್ಳಿ ಮತ್ತು ಮಂಗನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಕೆಂಗೇರಿ ಹೋಬಳಿಯ ಕೊಮ್ಮಘಟ್ಟ, ಭೀಮನಕುಪ್ಪೆ, ಭೀಮನಕುಪ್ಪೆ ರಾಮಸಾಗರ, ರಾಮಸಂದ್ರ, ಕೆಂಚನಪುರ, ಸೂಲಿಕೆರೆ, ಕೆ.ಕೃಷ್ಣಸಾಗರ ಮತ್ತು ಚಳ್ಳಘಟ್ಟ ಗ್ರಾಮಗಳಲ್ಲಿನ ಜಮೀನನ್ನು ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನಪಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 1976ರ ಕಲಂ.17(1) ರಂತೆ ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ನಂತರ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 18.02.2010 ರಂದು ಅಂತಿಮ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊರಡಿಸಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನಕ್ಕೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟಿರುವ ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ಜಮೀನಿನಲ್ಲಿನ ರೆವಿನ್ಯೂ ನಿವೇಶನದಾರರು ಬದಲಿ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳನ್ನು ನೀಡುವಂತೆ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಉಚ್ಚ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಹಲವಾರು ರಿಟ್ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿದ್ದು, ಈ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳನ್ನು ಒಟ್ಟುಗೂಡಿಸಿ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಉಚ್ಚ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯವು ರಿಟ್ ಅಪೀಲು ಸಂ.1783/2014 ರಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 22.02.2024 ರಂದು ಆದೇಶವಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಉಚ್ಚ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯದ ಆದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಿಸಿರುವಂತೆ ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆಗೆ ಮುಂಚಿತವಾಗಿ ಶುದ್ಧ ಕ್ರಯಕ್ಕೆ ಪಡೆದಿರುವ ರೆವಿನ್ಯೂ ನಿವೇಶನದಾರರಿಂದ ನಿಗದಿತ ನಮೂನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅರ್ಹ ರೆವಿನ್ಯೂ ನಿವೇಶನದಾರರಿಗೆ ನಿಗದಿತ ನಮೂನೆಯ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕೆನರಾ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್, ಬಿಡಿಎ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಕಛೇರಿ ಆವರಣದ ಶಾಖೆಯಿಂದ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 20.03.2024 ರಿಂದ 23.05.2024ರ ವರೆಗೆ** ನೀಡಲು ಅವಕಾಶ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಪೂರ್ಣ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ ರೆವಿನ್ಯೂ ನಿವೇಶನದಾರರು ನಿಗದಿತ ನಮೂನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡಿರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ, **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 06.04.2026 ರಿಂದ 04.07.2026 ರವರೆಗೆ** ಅವಕಾಶ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು ಉದ್ದೇಶಿತ ಬಡಾವಣೆಗೆ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸದ ಸದರಿ ಬಡಾವಣೆಯ ಕಂದಾಯ ನಿವೇಶನದಾರರ ಹಿತದೃಷ್ಟಿಯಿಂದ ಮತ್ತೊಮ್ಮೆ ಸದರಿ ಜಮೀನುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆಗೂ ಮುಂಚೆ ರೆವಿನ್ಯೂ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳನ್ನು ಕ್ರಯಕ್ಕೆ ಪಡೆದಿರುವ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆಗೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟಿರುವ ಜಮೀನುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ರೆವಿನ್ಯೂ ನಿವೇಶನದಾರರು ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಕುಮಾರ್ ಪಾರ್ಕ್ ರಲ್ಲಿ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 04.07.2026ರ ಒಳಗಾಗಿ** ಸಲ್ಲಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು. ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿದ ದಿನಾಂಕದ ನಂತರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲಾಗುವ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಮಾನ್ಯ ಉಚ್ಚ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯದ ಆದೇಶದ ಅನ್ವಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 04.07.2026ರಂದು** ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕವಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಸದರಿ ದಿನಾಂಕದ ಒಳಗಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದ್ದು, **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 04.07.2026ರ ನಂತರ** ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ ಹಾಗೂ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸದೇ ಇರುವ ರೆವಿನ್ಯೂ ನಿವೇಶನದಾರರಿಗೆ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಉಚ್ಚ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯದ ಆದೇಶದಂತೆ ಬದಲಿ ನಿವೇಶನಕ್ಕೆ ಅರ್ಹವಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಕಂದಾಯ ನಿವೇಶನದಾರರು ಬದಲಿ ನಿವೇಶನಕ್ಕೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬೇಕಾಗಿರುವ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳ ವಿವರ

1. ಪೂರ್ಣ ಅಂಚೆ ವಿಳಾಸ ನಮೂದಿಸಿರುವ ನಿಗದಿತ ಅರ್ಜಿ (ಪೂರಕ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ)
2. ಸ್ವ ವಿಳಾಸ ಆಧಾರ್ ಕಾರ್ಡ್ ಪ್ರತಿ,
3. ಸಹಿ ಮತ್ತು ಭಾವಚಿತ್ರ ದೃಢೀಕರಣ ಪತ್ರ (ಗೆಜೆಟೆಡ್ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳಿಂದ ದೃಢೀಕರಿಸಿರುವ)
4. ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಕ್ರಯಪತ್ರದ ದೃಢೀಕೃತ ನಕಲು
5. ಅರ್ಜಿದಾರರಾಗಲೀ ಅಥವಾ ಅವರ ಅವಲಂಬಿತ ಕುಟುಂಬ ಸದಸ್ಯರ ಹೆಸರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಬೇರೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ನಿವೇಶನ / ಮನೆ ಹೊಂದಿರದ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಪತ್ರವನ್ನು ನೋಟರಿಯವರಿಂದ ದೃಢೀಕರಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವುದು.
6. ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರವು ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿರುವ ಚಾಲ್ತಿ ನಿವೇಶನದ ಮಾರ್ಗಸೂಚಿ ದರ ಪಾವತಿಸುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಒಪ್ಪಿಗೆ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಪತ್ರ (ನೋಟರೈಸ್)
7. ಮಾಲೀಕತ್ವಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಇತರೆ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳು
8. ಇಲ್ಲಿಯವರೆಗಿನ ಋಣಭಾರ ಪತ್ರ (ಫಾರಂ ನಂ.15, 16 ರಲ್ಲಿ)
9. ರೆವಿನ್ಯೂ ಬಡಾವಣೆ ನಕ್ಷೆ (ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂಬರ್ ಮತ್ತು ರೆವಿನ್ಯೂ ನಿವೇಶನ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯಿರುವ)
10. ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗೆ/ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಇಲಾಖೆಗೆ ಪಾವತಿಸಿರುವ ಕಂದಾಯ ಪಾವತಿ ರಸೀದಿ.
11. ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ 10 ವರ್ಷಗಳಿಂದ ವಾಸವಾಗಿರುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ದೃಢೀಕರಣ ಪತ್ರ
12. ಇತರೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳು.

ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ/ವಾಟ್ಸ್‌ಪ್: 9483166622 (24x7). @BDAOfficialGok

ಸೂಚನೆ: ನಿಗದಿತ ನಮೂನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ, ನಿಗದಿತ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಹಾಗೂ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಕಾರ್ಡ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ರೆವಿನ್ಯೂ ನಿವೇಶನದಾರರಿಗೆ ಮಾತ್ರ ಬದಲಿ ನಿವೇಶನಕ್ಕೆ ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಅಪರ ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನಾಧಿಕಾರಿ, ಬೆಂ.ಅ.ಪ್ರಾ., ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION
(CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP)
ISRO-TELEMETRY TRACKING & COMMAND NETWORK (ISTRAC)
Plot No.12 &13, 3rd Main, 2nd Phase, Peenya Industrial Estate, Bengaluru-58.
Fax: 080-28094180. Ph: 080-28094185, 4144, 4541

CORRIGENDUM-I Dated: 30.03.2026

On behalf of President of India, sealed **item rate E-Tender** is invited online from Contractors of appropriate class for following work in NIT by Group Head, ISTRAC, ISRO, Peenya Bengaluru-58 (Ph:080-2809 4541, 4185, 4144).

NIT No.	**ISTRAC/CMG/E/MAINT/E-Tender-117/ 2025-26 Dated: 04.03.2026**
Name of work	**Annual Maintenance Contract for Cummins make DG Sets installed in different locations at IDSN campus, ISTRAC, Bylalu Village, Bengaluru**
Estimated Cost put to Tender	**Rs. 107.34 Lakhs**
Tender Document details	**E-Tender**
Period of Completion	**Three (03) Years**
Period during which the tender documents can be downloaded	From 16.00 hrs. on 05.03.2026 to 25.03.2026 till 16.00 hrs. **Extended up to 06.04.2026 up to 16.00 hrs.**
Bid clarifications	From 11.00 hrs. on 06.03.2026 to 26.03.2026 till 16.00 hrs. **Extended upto 07.04.2026 up to 16.00 hrs.**
Last date of reply to Bid clarification	27.03.2026 up to 16.00 hrs. **Extended up to 08.04.2026 up to 16.00 hrs.**
Last date & time for receipt of tenders	28.03.2026 up to 16.00 hrs. **Extended up to 09.04.2026 up to 16.00 hrs.**
Due date & time of opening of tenders	30.03.2026 after 11.00 hrs. **Extended up to 10.04.2026 after 11.00 hrs.**
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	**Rs. 2,14,680.00**

For eligibility criteria and other details, interested tenderers may please refer to the detailed bilingual (Hindi-English) Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) on the website **https://www.isro.gov.in/Tenders.html** and the tender free view at **https://www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO.**

Sd/- Group Head, CMG

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
NOTICE OF INVITING TENDER

DRM (S&T)/ North Western Railway /Jaipur, for and on behalf of the President of India, invite E-Tenders from registered tenderer/bidders for the following work. **E-Tender Notice No. SNT-JP-31-2025-26. Date: 27.03.2026. Name of work with its location**: Provision of **4x48F** OFC for Indigenous Train Collision Avoidance System over JP division of NWR **(631 R kms)** (Umbrella Work 2024-25). **Tender Value**: ₹ 49,05,55,437.86. **Bid Security**: ₹ 98,11,100/-. **Tender submission & closing Date & Time on website**: 20.04.2026, Up to 15:00 hrs. **Website Particulars & Notice board location**: **www.ireps.gov.in**, DRM office / NWR / Jaipur. **466-AR/26**

Follow us on : /NWRailways NWRailways_

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY
S&T (GSU) Dept./Kota Division
Corrigendum No. 1
TENDER No. Kota-SnT-GSU-PMS-2026-02, Date: 28.03.2026.

Due to pre-bid queries, certain minor modifications have been made in the RFP document of Tender No. Kota-SnT-GSU-PMS-2026-02 of the office of Dy. Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer (GSU), West Central Railway, Kota Jn., Kota-324002 (Rajasthan). The tender is scheduled to be opened on 13.04.2026. For further details, please visit the website **http://www.ireps.gov.in**. All other terms & condition of tender remain unchanged.

Dy. CSTE(GSU-II)/WCR/Kota

स्वच्छ भारत अभियान
एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client intend to purchase Land bearing
(i) Sy.No.27/1, measuring 1 Acre 02 Gunta,
(ii) Sy.No.27/4, measuring 21 Guntas,
(iii) Sy.No.27/5, measuring 1½ Guntas,
(iv) Sy.No.27/6 measuring 12½ Guntas,
(v) Sy.No.27/7 measuring 12¼ Guntas,
(vi) Sy.No.27/8 measuring 12¼ Guntas,
(vii) Sy.No.27/9 measuring 12½ Guntas
(ii to vii bearing Old Sy.No.27/2),
(viii) Sy.No.27/3, measuring 1½ Guntas,
(ix) Sy.No.27/10 measuring 9 Guntas,
(x) Sy.No.27/11 measuring 9 Guntas,
(xi) Sy.No.27/12 measuring 9 Guntas,
(xii) Sy.No.27/13 measuring 9½ Guntas
(ix to xii bearing Old Sy.No.27/3)
totally measuring 3 Acres 32 Guntas, situated at **Begur Village, Sulibele Hobli, Hoskote Taluk** and bounded on the
East by : Sy.No.27/14 and 27/15;
West by : Sy.No.31 and Sy.No.27/16;
North by : Sy.No.23;
South by : Road.
from the Land Owner **Mr.SURESHA, SON OF LATE SIDDEGOWDA @ DOLLEGOWDA**

Persons having any right over the said properties may lodge their objections/ claims with documentary evidence within **10 days** from the date of this publication, to the undersigned.

Prashanth Vijayalakshmi & Associates, Advocates,
No.162, 1st Floor, Above Venkateshwara Mobile store, Next Kanthi Sweets, 2nd Main, Kasturinagar, Bangalore-560 043.
Ph: 080-42065536
Email –prashanthviji.adv@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that our Client intends to purchase the below mentioned Schedule Property from, **Mrs. MALA GOPAL KRISHNA W/o. Mr. B Gopala Krishna** aged about 55 years, permanent residing at # 197/2, 4th Cross, Jayanagara West, Karisandra Ward, Jayanagara, Bengaluru South, Bengaluru, Karnataka – 560 041 **("Owner").**

The Owner represents that he is the absolute owner and he is in possession of the Schedule Property and the Schedule Property is free from any kind of encumbrance, suits, and proceedings under any statute. Any person or persons asserting any right, title, interest, claim or demand whatsoever in the Schedule Property or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage, charge, lien, gift, inheritance, bequest, possession, lis pendens, maintenance, easement, memorandum of understanding, agreement, power of attorney, option, right of first refusal, pre-emption or otherwise whatsoever is hereby required to notify the same in writing to the undersigned within a period of **Seven (7) days** from the date of issuance of this notice with all documentary proof thereof failing which our Client will treat the title of the Schedule Property as clear and marketable and will proceed to enter into the sale transaction.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing **Site No. 29,** having **BBMP E -Khatha PID No. 5151860249,** Ward No. 193-Arakere, measuring **East to West 40 feet and North to South 60 feet,** formed in converted Survey No. 3/4, 3/6 and 3/7 vide Conversion Order No. B.DIS.ALN.SR.(S) 370/92-93, Dated 05.05.1993 and Madivala Notified Area Khatha No. 412/523/43 situated at **HULIMAVU Village, Begur Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bangalore Urban District** and bounded as follows: **- East By : Site No. 28; West By : Site No. 30; North By : Site No. 13; and South By : Road.**

DEVENDRA NAIK, Advocate
ATRIUM JURIS
Advocates and Legal Consultants
No. 510, 1st Floor, Lakshmiram Building, 6th Cross, Mahalakshmi Layout, Near Karnataka Bank, Bengaluru-560 086
Ph: 9740287003

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that our Client intends to purchase the below mentioned Schedule Property from, **Mrs. P U SHANTHAMMA W/o. Mr. V Venkatesh** about 53 years, residing at # 26/9/2, 2nd Main, Nanjundeshwara Nagar, Nandini Layout, Bengaluru – 560 096 **("Owner").**

The Owner represents that he is the absolute owner and he is in possession of the Schedule Property and the Schedule Property is free from any kind of encumbrance, suits, and proceedings under any statute. Any person or persons asserting any right, title, interest, claim or demand whatsoever in the Schedule Property or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage, charge, lien, gift, inheritance, bequest, possession, lis pendens, maintenance, easement, memorandum of understanding, agreement, power of attorney, option, right of first refusal, pre-emption or otherwise whatsoever is hereby required to notify the same in writing to the undersigned within a period of **Seven (7) days** from the date of issuance of this notice with all documentary proof thereof failing which our Client will treat the title of the Schedule Property as clear and marketable and will proceed to enter into the sale transaction.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing House/Building **No. 67,** Municipal Khatha No. 6383898385, measuring **East to West 30 feet and North to South 40 feet,** Assessment No. 35/1 & 35/2, old Khatha No. 17, situated at **Chikkabanavara Village, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, Bangalore Urban District** and bounded as follows: **- East By : - Property No. 66; West By : - Property No. 68; North By : - 25 Feet Road; and South By : - Property No. 58.**

DEVENDRA NAIK, Advocate
ATRIUM JURIS
Advocates and Legal Consultants
No. 510, 1st Floor, Lakshmiram Building, 6th Cross, Mahalakshmi Layout, Near Karnataka Bank, Bengaluru-560 086
Ph: 9740287003

राष्ट्रीय पटसन बोर्ड NATIONAL JUTE BOARD
राष्ट्रीय पटसन बोर्ड, वस्त्र मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार
MINISTRY OF TEXTILES, GOVT. OF INDIA

वस्त्र मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF TEXTILES
Govt. of India
सत्यमेव जयते

भारतीय पटसन निगम
वस्त्र मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार
The Jute Corporation Of India
Ministry of Textiles, Government of India

Foundation Day Celebration of
NATIONAL JUTE BOARD
&
JUTE CORPORATION OF INDIA
And
Exhibition-cum-Sale of Jute Diversified Products
1st & 2nd April 2026
Gyan Bhawan, North Gandhi Maidan Road, Muradpur, Patna

A BG-BGE

Census 2027 begins in State today with opening of self-enumeration window

Karnataka is among the eight States/Union Territories where the census is being launched

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

This will be the country's 16th census since 1872 and eighth since Independence. FILE PHOTO

Allowing people to access the self-enumeration window from Wednesday, when personal details can be entered into the secured portal, will mark the commencement of the Census of India, 2027, in the State.

Karnataka is among the eight States/Union Territories where the census operation is being launched on Wednesday. This will be the country's 16th Census since 1872 and eighth since Independence. It will also be the country's first fully digital census, and data will be collected through dedicated mobile applications using a "Bring Your Own Device" framework.

Teachers required

In Karnataka, enumerators have been deployed by various departments, and the district administration will utilise human resources as per requirements.

"The deputy commissioners of the districts concerned have calculated the number of teachers required for the census at the district level. Since many teachers are doing evaluation, examination, and other academic work, we have not collected the data of the number of teachers to be deployed in each district," Commissioner for School Education Vikas Kishor Suralkar told *The Hindu*.

While the online self-enumeration window will be available on web portal *se.census.gov.in* from April 1 to April 15, the house listing and housing census will be conducted from April 16 to May 15. The self-enumeration window prior to commencement of the house listing operation will be followed by field verification through house-to-house visits by enumerators and validation of self-enumeration by enumerators. A total of 33 questions are to be answered in the first phase of enumeration.

According to a release from the Directorate of Census Operations, Karnataka, this phase will focus on collecting information on housing conditions, household amenities and assets. It will also lay the foundation for subsequent phases by identifying and listing all structures and households, thereby facilitating the formation of population enumeration blocks.

The population enumeration is scheduled for February 2027 and will capture detailed demographic and socio-economic information about every individual.

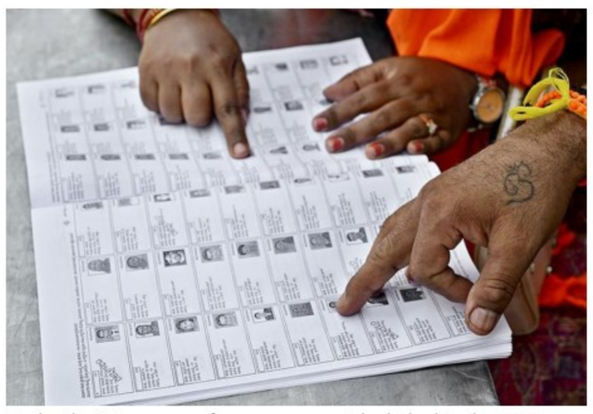
What it includes

The release said that data collection in the house listing operation includes housing characteristics (materials of floor, wall, and roof, condition, usage); household details (size, composition, ownership status); amenities (drinking water, sanitation, electricity, cooking fuel); assets (vehicles, electronic items, communication devices, internet access); and additional indicators (main cereal consumed, mobile numbers).

The Census Directorate said that personal information provided during the census will be fully protected by law and kept strictly confidential under the Census Act, 1948, and the Census Rules, 1990. "It will not be shared with any government department, private agency, or even courts of law, and will not be used for taxation surveillance or enforcement purposes. Only aggregated statistical data will be released, ensuring that no individual or household can be identified."

SIR exercise: In Kodagu, BLOs struggle to map workers from tribal communities

Rishita Khanna
BENGALURU



Under the SIR process, if a person cannot be linked to the 2002 electoral rolls during the enumeration phase, their name is likely to be left out of the draft rolls that follow. FILE PHOTO

In Kedamulur, a village in Virajpet taluk of Kodagu district, Booth Level Officers (BLOs) have not been able to map even a single resident to the 2002 electoral rolls, a key requirement ahead of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) expected to begin in the State in April.

This is because residents here have, over the years, moved across more than 20 plantation belts in the region. Largely from Adivasi communities such as the Paniya Yerava, Jenu Kuruba, and Yerava, people told *The Hindu* that they neither remember their earlier place of enrolment nor possess documents to establish it.

Most families said they have worked across plantations in areas such as Kutta, Ponnampet, Kaarekadu and Ammatti, among others, shifting every few years depending on work. With no records of earlier addresses, they are unable to show where they were living in 2002. In many cases, even recalling details needed to locate their names or those of their parents or grandparents in the electoral rolls has been difficult.

"No one in Kedamulur could be matched during the mapping exercise," a BLO associated with the Tomara Booth said, adding that similar conditions exist across plantation areas in Virajpet and Ponnampet taluks, apart from parts of Chikkamagaluru and Sakleshpur.

Officers face bottlenecks

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

For BLOs, the exercise itself has been difficult to carry out. These settlements are located inside plantations with no bus connectivity, requiring them to walk long distances. Even then, workers and their families were always away in estates during the day. Officials said there is little awareness among residents about the exercise, even as they are expected to complete the work within deadlines and adapt to new rules.

Under the SIR process, if a person cannot be linked to the 2002 electoral rolls during the enumeration phase, their name is likely to be left out of the draft rolls that follow. It is only after this stage that individuals are issued notices asking them to submit one of 11 specified documents as proof.

No proof of address

For many families here, accessing those documents itself is a challenge. Gauri, from Adivasi Sangharsh Morcha, said it is common for workers' documents such as voter ID cards and ration cards to be held by employers and not returned when they leave plantations. With families shifting every few years, most also do not have proof of permanent residence. Even Aadhaar, which is accepted only as proof of identity and not citizenship for SIR, is not possessed by many in these settlements.

The SIR guidelines also require people to produce documents based on their age. Those born before 1987 must submit their own documents, those born between 1987 and 2004 must provide documents for themselves and one parent, and those born after 2004 must provide documents for both parents. In communities where older generations themselves lack documents, this requirement, Ms. Gauri argued, is impossible to meet.

Discrepancies galore

Even among those who do have documents, discrepancies are common, with differences in spelling, variations in names, and inconsistencies across records. In several cases, it was common that two documents of the same person had different names. BLOs explained that this can happen for multiple reasons – sometimes, names are changed by employers or recorded along with the name of the community, and in other instances, spellings differ across languages or records.

In one case, a person's Aadhaar card carried the name "Manju", while the voter ID recorded it as "Paniya Yerava Manju". In another, the individual's name appeared as "Chubba" in one document and "Subba" in another. BLOs acknowledged that such variations are required to be proven during the SIR and will only make it difficult to establish identity under the SIR, even for those who possess documents.

Adivasi Sangharsh Morcha has called for a survey in Adivasi settlements to identify gaps in documentation and address discrepancies in names across records.

President arrives

Warm welcome: President Droupadi Murmu being received by Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot in Bengaluru on Tuesday. She will participate in the 199th Jayanthotsava and Guru Vandana programme of Shivakumara Mahaswami at Siddaganga Mutt, Tumakuru, on Wednesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Survey highlights gaps in sanitation access, continuing open defecation practice in Belagavi's Chikkodi taluk

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In villages with public toilets, many are unusable owing to a lack of water connections, poor maintenance, or unclean conditions

Although rural Karnataka was declared "Open Defecation Free" in 2018, a survey of women in 390 Scheduled Caste households in Chikkodi taluk, Belagavi, has found that nearly 50% of the households do not have a toilet at home.

The survey, conducted by ActionAid Karnataka in February 2026 across 13 villages in the taluk, found that several villages do not have public toilets. In villages that have public toilets, many were found unusable owing to a lack of water connections, poor maintenance, or unclean conditions.

All these contribute to the continuing practice of open defecation in the region and disproportionately impact women and elderly residents who do not have access to private or usable community sanitation facilities, notes the report.

During the survey, 196 out of 390 respondents reported not having toilets at their homes. Six of the 13 villages, including Karagaon, Donawad, Kungatoli, Mugali, Bambalwad, and Hanchinal were found to have no public/community toilets. All six villages see the practice of open defecation, as per the survey.

While there are public toilets in Nagarmunnoli, Belakud, Kallol, Ankali, Ingali, Kamatenatti, and Haleyadur, respondents from Kallol, Kamattenatti, and Nagarmunnoli reported that they do not have water connection.

"Nearly 74% of the respondents (288 out of 390) reported knowing other women who defecate in the open, and 175 of them were from the same seven aforementioned villages," the report noted.

The survey highlighted the non-availability of water as a critical constraint. "While most households have tap water connections, irregular water supply and inadequate storage capacity limit the usability of toilets," it noted.

Around 84% of households have four or more members living in homes often smaller than 600 sq. ft, leaving no space for toilet construction.

Women were found to be disproportionately affected by the lack of sanitation facilities. "Respondents reported having to wait until early morning or late evening to defecate in open spaces, which raises concerns related to safety, dignity, and health. Menstruation further complicates sanitation access for women and adolescent girls," the study further stated.

Limited awareness of government sanitation schemes was yet another finding. Less than 50% of respondents were found to be aware of the ₹20,000 subsidy for household toilet construction under the Swachh Bharat Mission and Scheduled Caste Sub Plan provisions.

DKS blames Centre for rising prices of fuel, iron, and cement

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar addressing a press conference at the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee office in Bengaluru on Tuesday. ALLEN EGENUSE J..

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Tuesday criticised the Centre over the rising prices of fuel, cement, iron, and other essential commodities in recent months, attributing it to wrongful policies of the Union government.

"Owing to the Centre's wrong decisions and policies, people across the country are suffering due to the rise in prices. It is not just LPG cylinder prices; toll charges and railway fares have also increased," he said. He said cement prices have increased by ₹50 to ₹100 per bag, while iron prices have risen from ₹47,000 to ₹59,000 per tonne. "How can ordinary people build homes under these circumstances? This is also affecting government construction projects," he added.

"Elections are under way in five States. Hotels are shutting down and people are being forced to use electric stoves. Over the last 15 days, electricity consumption in the State has risen by 10%. The Centre has given people a 'firewood blessing', but where will the firewood come from?" he asked.

Fuel and LPG prices have surged, and supply shortages have been triggered by the ongoing conflict in West Asia, with a cascading effect.

Meanwhile, the BJP has been criticising the State government for increasing prices of essential services such as milk and public transport to mobilise resources for its guarantee schemes. Mr. Shivakumar said, "The Centre is waging a price war against ordinary people. To strengthen their financial position, our government has introduced five guarantee schemes, which are providing financial protection."

BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru-560 020

No. BDA/EE(W)/Corrigendum/Work_TN-1188/2025-26 Date: 27.03.2026

CORRIGENDUM

Sub: Modification to Tender Notification for the works of **"Construction of RCC Drain, Formation of roads, Development of parks in Sir M. Vishveshwaraiah Layout, 1st to 6th Blocks and further Extension Sir M. Vishveshwaraiah Layout 7th to 9th Blocks".**

Ref.: 1. this office tender notification No. BDA/EE(W)/T-03/2025-26, Dated 26.02.2026.
2. Work Indent No.: BDA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT238

In continuation to the tender notification dated 26.02.2026 cited under reference, the following modification to be adopted as below:

Sl. No.	As per Last Notification under Ref		To be Read as	
1	Availability of Tender documents		Availability of Tender documents	From 01.04.2026 17.00 hrs. onwards
2	Last date and time for receipt of Queries	25.03.2026 up to 16.00 hrs.	Last date and time for receipt of Queries	07.04.2026 up to 16.00 hrs.
3	Date and time of Pre-Bid Meeting	26.03.2026 at 11.00 hrs.	Date and time of Pre-Bid Meeting	08.04.2026 at 15.00 hrs.
4	Last date of receipt of tender	30.03.2026 up to 17.00 hrs.	Last date of receipt of tender	15.04.2026 up to 17.00 hrs.
5	Time and date of opening of first Electronic Document (Technical Bid)	01.04.2026 at 17.00 hrs.	As per KPPP portal	
6	Time and date of opening of Second Electronic Document (Financial Bid)	Will be intimated to the qualified bidders	As per KPPP portal	
7	Period of Completion	11 months	15 months	

The other details of the tender document/information remain unaltered. Any clarifications may please be obtained the details from the office of the Executive Engineer, West Division, BDA, Metro Pillar No. 594, Bangalore-Mysore Road, Kengeri, Bengaluru-560 059 on all working days between 11.00 a.m. and 5.30 p.m. during office hours.

Helpline / Whatsapp: 9483166622 (24x7) @BDAOfficialGok

Sd/- Executive Engineer, West Division, BDA, Bengaluru

A BG-BGE

HC upholds amendments to Kerala Lok Ayukta Act

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The Kerala High Court on Tuesday upheld the amendments made in 2024 to the Kerala Lok Ayukta Act, 1999.

A Division Bench of Chief Justice Soumen Sen and Justice V.M. Syam Kumar delivered the judgment after hearing a batch of petitions, including by Haripad MLA and Congress leader Ramesh Chennithala, challenging the amendments.

The Act was enacted for the purpose of improving the standards of public administration, including cases of corruption, favouritism, and official indiscipline in the administrative machinery. But the amendments are against its aims and objectives, the petitioners contended.

Bill on A.P. capital likely to be tabled in Lok Sabha

Move follows a resolution passed by A.P. Assembly on March 28 urging Centre to amend the law and declare Amaravati the State's sole capital; former CM had favoured a three-capital formula

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

The Union government is likely to introduce the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2026, in the current Lok Sabha session to officially recognise Amaravati as the sole capital of Andhra Pradesh.

Government sources said the move follows a resolution passed by the Andhra Pradesh Assembly on March 28, 2026, urging the Centre to amend the law to incorporate Amaravati as the State's capital.

The Bill proposes to amend Section 5 of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014, which had designated Hyderabad as the common capital for both Telangana and Andhra Pradesh for a period not exceeding 10 years.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu addresses a special session of the Assembly in Amaravati. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

It comes after a long process of settling a capital city for Andhra Pradesh after the bifurcation of the erstwhile State in 2014 into Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. At that time, the Union government had set up a committee of experts to explore the question of a new capital.

The committee had submitted a report in August that year. Though it had opposed the idea of a 'super capital' apprehending ecological damage among other issues, the Chandrababu Naidu-led Telugu Desam Party government began land acquisition in the State's Guntur district to establish the capital.

When the government changed in 2019, work stalled as the new Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy was not in favour of a shift of the State's capital to Amaravati. Alleging that too much money was being spent on it, he proposed instead a "three-capital" formula, suggesting Visakhapatnam as the executive capital, Kurnool as the judicial capital, and Amaravati as the legislative capital.

When the TDP returned to power in 2024, Mr. Naidu revived the Amaravati plan.

Telangana accuses A.P. of illegal power generation

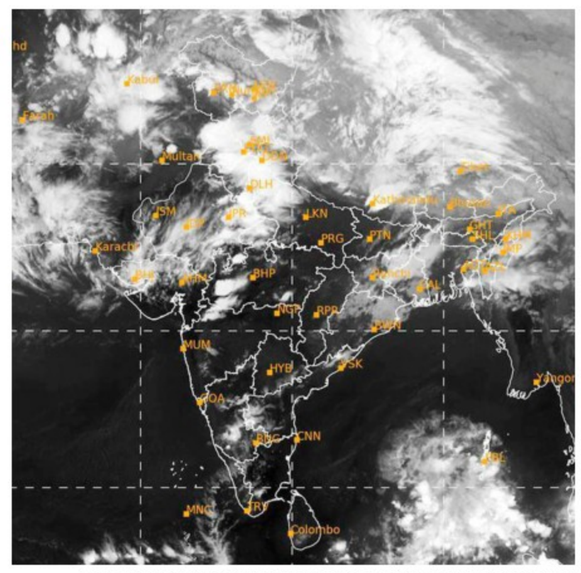
The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Telangana Excise Minister Jupally Krishna Rao alleged that the Andhra Pradesh government was generating power at the Srisailam dam in violation of established norms, ignoring the irrigation and drinking water needs of Telangana.

Addressing the media, the Minister said that there is a clear rule that power generation should not be undertaken at the Srisailam reservoir once the minimum water level falls to 834 feet (254.2 metres). Despite this stipulation, the A.P. government had been drawing water and producing electricity illegally and unjustly, "without considering the irrigation and drinking water requirements of Telangana", he alleged.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Wednesday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Meghalaya. Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over Rajasthan, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Odisha, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Mahe

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	3	31.8	22.7	Kozhikode	—	34.3	25.6
Ahmedabad	—	36.7	27.0	Kurnool	—	38.9	27.7
Aizawl	15.8	30.3	16.6	Lucknow	—	37.3	23.0
Allahabad	—	38.8	23.0	Madurai	—	38.4	25.4
Bengaluru	—	33.4	22.3	Mangaluru	—	33.4	25.0
Bhopal	—	37.0	21.0	Mumbai	—	33.1	25.6
Bhubaneswar	—	34.8	25.2	Mysuru	—	34.2	21.0
Chandigarh	—	33.1	16.5	New Delhi	0.5	33.7	19.4
Chennai	—	34.5	25.6	Patna	—	33.6	23.5
Coimbatore	—	36.8	24.4	Port Blair	—	32.5	26.3
Dehradun	—	32.2	17.2	Puducherry	—	32.6	25.6
Gangtok	—	18.1	13.1	Pune	36.6	37.2	22.4
Goa	—	35.2	25.0	Raipur	—	36.1	25.9
Guwahati	3	27.5	19.8	Ranchi	—	33.8	21.4
Hubballi	—	36.0	23.0	Shillong	—	21.6	14.0
Hyderabad	—	34.0	22.8	Shimla	4	23.4	10.8
Imphal	—	27.9	18.5	Srinagar	32	17.1	6.1
Jaipur	—	34.0	22.6	Thiruvananthapuram	9	34.6	24.0
Kochi	—	33.8	25.8	Tiruchi	—	37.1	24.8
Kohima	—	21.8	10.6	Vijayawada	—	36.6	24.9
Kolkata	5	30.2	23.2	Visakhapatnam	—	33.7	26.3

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.55	..86	28	 62	65	
Bengaluru	.10	..17	21	... 104	...111	
Chennai	.24	..12	22	 29	49	
Delhi	.29	..46	46	... 199	...240	
Hyderabad	.15	..15	36	 88	85	
Kolkata	.18	..36	60	 48	69	
Lucknow	.10	..37	45	... 141	...126	
Mumbai	...2	..51	37	 34	65	
Pune	..—	..60	33	... 137	...136	
Visakhapatnam	.33	..36	12	 34	98	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Ballabgarh, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 264 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Pampore, Jammu & Kashmir recorded a healthy AQI score of 15

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

How did theft accused enter Sonia's residence, asks Pinarayi

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Tuesday dared the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, to explain how the main accused in the Sabarimala gold theft case gained easy admission to Sonia Gandhi's high-security residence in Delhi before "stooping" to finger-pointing against his Left Democratic Front (LDF) government.

Pinarayi Vijayan

Mr. Vijayan also sought to counter Mr. Gandhi's flanking attacks by raising the cash-for-seat controversy swirling around the Congress's leadership.

He said the Congress was raising the spectre of a CPI(M)-BJP alliance to shore up its fast-eroding support among minorities, who, he claimed, were gravitating towards the LDF given its uncompromising stance against communalism.

Rahul points to CPI(M)-BJP 'deal' again, targets Kerala CM

The Hindu Bureau
KOYILANDY

Rahul Gandhi, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, continued to invoke the Sabarimala gold theft case and the alleged "deal" between the Communist Party of India (Marxist) [CPI(M)] and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to target Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan as he conducted roadshows and attended campaign events for United Democratic Front (UDF) candidates in parts of North Kerala on Tuesday.

Rahul Gandhi

Pointing out that cases after cases had been slapped against him for opposing the BJP, Mr. Gandhi said Mr. Vijayan was yet to be questioned though "the whole of Kerala knows that he is corrupt." "How come your Chief Minister is not interrogated? How come the Enforcement Directorate, the Central Bureau of Investigation, and the Income Tax are not after him," Mr. Gandhi asked.

INBRIEF

Jayalalithaa's Hyderabad property seized over tax dues

A property that belonged to former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Jayalalithaa in Hyderabad was seized for a day by the civic authorities, as the owners defaulted on property tax payment. The property in Srinagar Colony was reportedly released on Tuesday after the process for payment was initiated. The building was categorised as 'Commercial' as it had been rented reportedly by the fugitive liquor tycoon Vijay Mallya for United Breweries, before he left the country.

2 held at Hyderabad airport with ganja worth ₹8.9 crore

Officials at the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport in Hyderabad, Telangana, have arrested two Indian passengers arriving from Thailand and seized 25.45 kilograms of hydroponic ganja valued at ₹8.9 crore. The operation was carried out on Sunday based on specific intelligence by the Hyderabad zonal unit of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), officials said. The contraband was seized and the accused were taken into custody under the provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, with an investigation under way.

Four arrested for performing dangerous bike stunts

Four people were arrested by Attapur police for performing dangerous bike stunts on a public road and endangering the lives of commuters.

The accused were identified as Md. Amer Baba, 21, an AC technician from Borabanda; Mohammed Ashwak, 19, a bike mechanic from Miyapur; Mohammed Sameeruddin, 26, a driver from Begumpet and; Mohammed Nashit, 20, a delivery boy from B.S. Maktha. According to a complaint, the incident occurred near pillar number 143 under the PVNR Expressway stretch towards Aramghar on March 27.

Floating outreach

Poll call: Houseboats seen on the Vembanad lake in Kerala on Tuesday as part of a voter awareness programme, SVEEP (systematic voters' education and electoral participation), organised by the Election Commission ahead of the April 9 Assembly polls. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Officer gets contempt of court notices

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The High Court on Tuesday issued contempt of court notices to IAS officer and Principal Secretary to government, Mr. Jayesh Ranjan, in connection with a writ petition questioning the government's new advertising policy of 2026.

Justice N.V. Shravan Kumar of the High Court directed the IAS officer to appear before the bench in person or through an advocate on April 9 and explain the government's stand in the matter.

The contempt of court case was filed by the M/s Telangana Outdoor Media Owners Association and three others, stating that the government had wilfully disobeyed the HC order in a writ petition it had filed.

According to the association, the High Court had instructed the IAS officer to consider the representations of outdoor media owners and provide a fair hearing to them before taking a call on the advertising policy.

It contended that without considering representations on points such as permitting advertising hoardings on private buildings, the government finalised the policy.

This had serious ramifications on the livelihood of lakhs of persons who were depending directly and indirectly on the related works, the association said.

Chicken traders to down shutters from today

Siddharth Kumar Singh
HYDERABAD

Located in a corner of Baba Nagar colony in Hyderabad's Mallapur area is Tawakkal Chicken and Mutton Market. While people move in and out of the shop, they also notice a banner which has been hung outside the shop which has a notice written in Telugu.

The notice, attributed to the Telangana State Chicken Shop Owners Association, reads: "Chicken traders are falling victim to the tyranny of poultry companies that do not give us margin. This has led us to a situation where we cannot do business without profits. In protest of this, we are closing our shops from April 1 indefinitely until the reduced margin is corrected. Please cooperate."

A banner outside a chicken shop in Mallapur, Hyderabad, announcing an indefinite shutdown from April 1 over falling margins and rising costs faced by chicken retailers

Inside the shop, processing the chicken is Rahman, who explains the situation: "For every kilogram we sell, we hardly make anything now. Earlier, we used to get around ₹20 to ₹30 per kg. Now it has come down to ₹5 or ₹10. Some days, there is no margin at all," he says, pausing briefly between customers.

For small retailers like Rahman, this margin is not profit in the conventional sense.

It is the amount left after buying chicken from poultry suppliers and selling it to customers, from which all expenses must be met. Rent, electricity, labour and transport are paid from this narrow gap.

Shop owners say the squeeze is happening from both ends. Poultry integrator companies largely determine the price at which retailers procure chicken, leaving them with little bargaining power. At the same time, increasing retail prices is not easy. In many neighbourhoods, where multiple shops operate within a short distance, even a small increase can push customers to a competitor.

"If we increase the price, customers will just go to the next shop. We cannot control buying price, and we cannot increase selling price. So how do we survive?" asks Mohd Kaleem, who runs a chicken shop in Yousufguda.

Satish Goud, representing the Telangana State Chicken Shop Owners Association, alleged that large corporate players in the poultry sector are squeezing small retailers by reducing margins while expanding their own organised retail presence. There are about a lakh such small shops in twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad, he said.

Mr. Goud added that rising costs have made the situation unsustainable. "Rents increase by around 10% every year, workers' salaries have gone up significantly, and electricity bills are high. Earlier, a worker could be managed at ₹5,000 to ₹6,000. Now it is ₹10,000 to ₹15,000 including food and accommodation. How can a shop survive on such thin margins?"

The association has called for an indefinite shutdown of chicken shops from April 1 and plans to stage a protest at Dharna Chowk near Indira Park, seeking intervention from the government and a revision of margins.

Unexpected surge

The Index of Industrial Production diverges from previous data

India's industrial growth held a positive surprise in February 2026, coming in at 5.2%, marginally faster than the growth in January. Apart from November and December last year, February's industrial performance – as measured by the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) – was the best in nearly two years. Why this was a surprise was because this performance diverges quite sharply from what was indicated by the Index of Eight Core Industries released earlier this month. The eight core sectors – crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, coal, fertilizers, steel, cement, and electricity – saw their combined growth slow to 2.3% in February, about half the growth rate in January. These core sectors have a weightage of about 40% in the IIP, and so the expectation was that they would drag the IIP down too. Yet, something else happened. This would imply that sectors outside the core ones did well. Most notably, the manufacturing sector in the IIP saw growth accelerate to a respectable 6% in February. The capital goods sector's growth accelerated to a 28-month high of 12.5%, on an already strong base of 8.1%. These are good signs for labour and capital. What is more concerning is that some elements of consumer demand are going in the opposite direction. Consumer durables grew 7.3%, but consumer non-durables contracted 0.6%, the second consecutive month of shrinkage. It had contracted in February last year as well, so this was not a statistical anomaly.

In general, spending on non-durables involves greater discretion on a day-to-day basis, and so is a better gauge of consumer sentiment. At the moment, at least this data suggest that sentiment is low. This also correlates with the new series of national accounts data showing that household expenditure has had a shrinking contribution to GDP. The government should also look into why the IIP and the Eight Core Industries index moved in opposite directions in February. The two are normally highly correlated, and so a divergence is immediately noteworthy. From the looks of things, February's strong IIP performance is likely to be a short-lived acceleration. The West Asia crisis is already having an impact on the economy. The monthly economic review by the Finance Ministry has said that early high-frequency economic indicators for March are pointing towards a "moderation in economic momentum". The longer the war persists, the sharper this "moderation" is likely to be. On a positive note, while what is being measured might turn dismal, how it is being measured will soon improve. The new, upgraded series of IIP data will be released in May. As the new GDP and CPI have done, the new IIP is sure to provide a clearer picture of the economy – the good and the bad.

A bully blinks

Russian ship breaks U.S. blockade to help fuel-starved Cuba

Ever since U.S. President Donald Trump began his second term in office, his administration's conduct of foreign policy has been that of a schoolyard bully. This is particularly true in 2026, when the U.S. launched attacks on two oil-rich countries, Venezuela and Iran. The first was on the blatantly false pretext of terming President Nicolás Maduro the head of a drug cartel, and the second was at the instance of Israel. As with schoolyard bullies everywhere, the Trump administration recognises no rules and mistakes the absence of violent resistance for proof of its strength. The strangling of Cuba is a case in point. After seizing Venezuela's energy assets, abducting its President, and cutting off Venezuelan oil supply to Havana, the U.S. threatened countries such as Mexico that sought to step into the breach, and imposed a *de facto* naval blockade on Cuba, leading to a severe fuel crunch and acute distress for ordinary Cubans. This behaviour, justified by Mr. Trump as an attempt to take over Cuba and remove its decades-long communist government, is part of a strategy so nakedly imperial that it has been termed the "Donroe Doctrine", a crude play on the original instrument of U.S. hemispheric dominance for over two centuries. Yet, the bully's power is often brittle and holds only until someone calls the bluff. When Russia, Cuba's ally since the Soviet era, dispatched a tanker, *Anatoly Kolodkin*, as humanitarian aid to fuel-starved Cuba, it also tested the will of the Trump administration to interdict a ship owned by another nuclear power. The tanker reached without incident.

The U.S., it turns out, did not push back and the bluff now stands exposed, even if by a country that has itself displayed similar behaviour in neighbouring Ukraine. Cuba's fuel crisis has not ended and the threat of American attacks still hangs over the socialist government led by President Miguel Díaz-Canel. But Russia's timely help reveals that the rest of the world need not simply endure the Trump era as this administration goes about breaking every accepted tenet of the international order. For all its flaws as a one-party state, Cuba has been an avowed member of the Non-Aligned Movement, has shown solidarity with the Global South by deploying well-trained doctors for medical programmes across poor countries, and has contributed materially to anti-colonial struggles for decades. It is time other countries repaid the Cubans by showing the will to break the American blockade and continue sovereign trade and commerce with Cuba, asserting their right to do so. After all, the international order holds only when its constituents accept that might does not always make right.

The West Asia cauldron of conflict and its fallout

M.K. Narayanan

A former Director, Intelligence Bureau, a former National Security Adviser, and a former Governor of West Bengal

West Asia is currently enmeshed in what is essentially Benjamin Netanyahu's war, aggravated by Donald Trump's folly, lending itself to large-scale devastation. The conflict that began on February 28, 2026, when the United States and Israel launched large-scale joint military operations against Iran, is still continuing. What appeared to be a limited confrontation earlier in June (the 12-day war in June 2025) may now be seen as a kind of curtain raiser for this – the more devastating conflict taking place now. Titled 'Operation Epic Fury', the human cost of the war has been colossal, apart from other types of collateral damage. With several thousand Iranians killed, more than half of them civilians, it is apparent that the U.S. and Israel are preparing for a long campaign and, incidentally, in course of time, to commit troops on the ground. The world, nevertheless, needs to prepare for a long-drawn-out conflict

Iran survives the onslaught

To date, despite the widespread disruption and devastation, including the assassination of senior Iranian leaders such as Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and National Security Chief Ali Larijani among others, Iran has not only survived but its uranium stockpile also remains safe. Iran appears ready for an extended war. Also, Iran hopes to get its own back on the U.S., Israel, and their allies in the region by provoking a serious oil crisis through a blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, through which nearly 30% of the world's shipment of oil passes. There has been other collateral damage as well, including the fact that many U.S. allies in Europe and elsewhere have openly refused to respond to Mr. Trump's plaintive appeal for help in opening the Strait of Hormuz, even as Iran has made a tempting offer of safe passage (through the Strait) for countries friendly to it. Having survived the initial onslaught of the combined forces of the U.S. and Israel, Iran is now beginning to raise the stakes, at least as far as the U.S. is concerned, by calling for an American commitment to withdraw its bases in West Asia, to restrain Israel and arrive at an armistice of sorts.

Most experts believe that, if anything, time is on the side of Iran. Despite all the fire and fury visited on Iran in the first month of the conflict, and despite the loss of its top leaders, Iran has not only survived but has also managed to hit back, though with lesser intensity. The regime's command structure has been disrupted, but a collapse of the Iranian state has not occurred. On the other hand, for the U.S., its strategy of saturation bombardment from the air is leading to certain other repercussions, in terms of both cost and replenishments of key weapons such as Patriot missiles, Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) Interceptors, Tomahawk cruise missiles and the like. Within the U.S., more so among sections of the U.S. Navy, signs of war weariness appear to have set in; while it is possible to overstate its significance, it cannot be ignored. In this respect, Israel's strategy of containing the threat posed by Iran, while firing from Mr. Trump's shoulders, may have gone awry. It would seem that the conflict has upended the Thucydides aphorism that "the strong do what they can and the weak suffer what they must", for in the present case, Iran has refused to accept suffering without hitting back with full ferocity. Notwithstanding this, the U.S. and Israel display few compunctions in persisting with a conflict that is focused 'on extracting advantage, rather than in underwriting order'.

> As the West Asia conflict — widely seen as Benjamin Netanyahu's war — falters, Iran appears to be enduring while the world grapples with growing economic strain

'Netanyahu's war' escalates

This is undoubtedly Mr. Netanyahu's war, and while standard declamations may continue to be made, it is apparent that Mr. Netanyahu's plans to decimate Iran with the aid and the support of the U.S. has gone wrong. What is surprising also is that, apart from U.S. support to Israel's devious plans, much of the rest of the civilised world has not upbraided Israel for embarking on a patently illegal conflict, which has no merit whatsoever. The world continues to remain a mute spectator, notwithstanding the price it is paying due to the escalating cost of oil.

Israel's obsession about seeking fulfilment of the 'Biblical Promise of the chosen land', notwithstanding the huge cost in human and economic terms, is unfortunately proving costly for the world at large as well. However, Israel remains adamant in pursuing the war with little regard for the costs involved, and, with Mr. Trump's backing, hopes to expand the ambit of the conflict across West Asia to include Lebanon, Iraq, and Syria. All this, despite the already apparent severe maritime disruptions and retaliatory steps taken by Iran such as the closing of the Strait of Hormuz.

The Iran war today has entered a phase of 'no peace, no large-scale war', one defined not merely by military confrontation but through the weaponisation of the infrastructure underpinning the global economy. Energy prices, shipping lanes and logistical systems provide the essential backdrop to the current conflict and are, in a sense, central to the strategy of those involved. The U.S. has far more to lose than Israel if the world plunges into prolonged chaos – but the economies of most nations across the globe are already being, and would continue to be, adversely affected by the disruption of the oil economy and its fallout in every sphere.

Notwithstanding the opinion of military experts that Israel's objective of effecting a regime change in Iran is impossible without a ground invasion, Israel is pursuing such an objective with vigour. Neither the U.S. nor Europe display any enthusiasm for this. The economies of most nations concerned are, once again, in no position to undertake such a conflict – including the U.S. Both China and Russia are almost certain to oppose it. A war of this kind is, moreover, certain to throw up many other issues often lost sight of in the Councils of the World. The fact that Iran is a large country is often ignored, as also that Iranian forces are better acclimatised to carry out a war of attrition. Reliance on air power provides no significant advantage to any 'aggressor'.

On Shia resistance

Additionally, one must add a symbolic dimension to any conflict that is aimed at overthrowing a Shite regime. Shite political culture draws heavily on the memory of the 'Battle of Karbala' that symbolises civilisational resistance, and not just geopolitics. The narrative emphasises patience, sacrifice, resistance and strategic endurance. A war intended to change the present dispensation in Iran by outside forces such as Israel, would only provide an opportunity to enhance the religious, political and transnational aspects of Shite Islam.

Expansion of the current war launched by the U.S. and Israel is more likely to be perceived as approximating to striking at the roots of political Shiism – in Iran and elsewhere. Western military superiority does not guarantee strategic victory. Nor will a war automatically result in altering geopolitical outcomes inside Iran and across the region, or to a regime collapse in Iran. All this would pave the way for a long drawn-out war, irrespective of the consequences.

The appointment of Mojtaba Khamenei as the Supreme Leader following Ali Khamenei's killing on February 28, should again be viewed not as a mere rite of passage but as a triumph for the radical messianic-apocalyptic aspect of Shite Islam. In a sense, it is triggering a revival of Shite militancy – and in an aggravated form. This leaves little room for any expectation that the revolutionary fervour will diminish with the killing of additional Ayatollahs.

The U.S. and Israel, hence, need to be careful before venturing into the 'spider's web', for the cost of delusion could be grave not only for Israel and the U.S. but also for the world at large. There is still time, at least for the U.S., to retrieve the situation and alter the policy direction that has been initiated under Mr. Netanyahu's instigation. Israel's deliberate provocation, including its latest attack very close to Iran's Bushehr nuclear power plant (built with Russian collaboration) was a needless – and perhaps a deliberate – act of provocation by Israel. Such issues need to be avoided lest the world is plunged into third world war, with untold sufferings for mankind.

Counting people is not counting disaster risk

Aswathy Rachel Varughese

Assistant Professor, Gulati Institute of Finance and Taxation, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

Odisha is, by any measure, one of India's most disaster-prone States. Its 574.7-kilometre coastline has absorbed some of the most powerful cyclones to make landfall on the subcontinent. Over two decades, through investment in early warning systems, cyclone shelters, and mass evacuations, the State has reduced cyclone mortality to near zero. It is, therefore, not merely paradoxical but troubling that the 16th Finance Commission has awarded Odisha the single largest reduction in disaster funding share among all 28 States, a decline of 1.57 percentage points relative to the 15th Finance Commission's allocation.

How does a State with the highest hazard score in the country, and the deepest investments in preparedness, end up losing the most? The answer lies in a structural problem in the Finance Commission's allocation formula.

The revised formula and its rationale

The 16th Finance Commission has allocated ₹2,04,401 crore to State Disaster Response Funds (SDRF), a 59.5% increase over its predecessor. The Commission adopted a multiplicative Disaster Risk Index (DRI = Hazard X Exposure X Vulnerability), drawing on the theoretical framework. This is a departure from the additive approach of the 15th Finance Commission, which treated hazard and vulnerability as substitutes rather than complements. Risk arises only when hazard intersects with exposed and vulnerable populations. A powerful cyclone striking an uninhabited coastline is a natural event, not a disaster. The logic is correct. The operationalisation is not.

The first problem lies in the measurement of 'Exposure'. The Commission uses the total population of each State, scaled linearly between 1 and 25, as its exposure metric. Uttar Pradesh receives 25 and Sikkim receives 1. This is administratively convenient but scientifically indefensible. Exposure, per the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)'s Sixth Assessment Report, is the presence of people in places that could be adversely affected by hazards, not simply the number of people within a political boundary. A State with 10 crore people on a hazard-safe inland plateau has lower exposure than a State with three crore people settled entirely along a cyclone-prone coastline. Total population and hazard-zone population are not the same variable.

> Structural problems in the 16th Finance Commission's disaster funding formula leave India's most hazard-prone States underserved

The practical consequences are stark. Odisha's hazard score of 12 is the highest in the country. But because its population score is only 5, its computed DRI of 79.8 is overshadowed by Bihar's 224.2 and Uttar Pradesh's 413.2, two States with lower hazard scores. The multiplicative formula, in practice, rewards demographic size. A State can face the most intense hazard in India and still lose funding because it is not populous. This is precisely the outcome that a risk-based allocation framework was designed to prevent.

The second problem compounds the first. Vulnerability is measured through each State's average per capita Net State Domestic Product (NSDP), inverted so that poorer States score higher. The intuition is clear – poorer States have fewer fiscal resources to absorb disaster shocks. But the NSDP measures fiscal capacity, not disaster vulnerability. Vulnerability is multidimensional, encompassing housing quality, health infrastructure in hazard zones, early warning reach, and the share of population in structurally unsafe dwellings. Average per capita income conceals enormous intra-state inequality.

In 2018, Kerala suffered its worst flooding in a century, causing estimated damages of ₹31,000 crore. Yet, the formula assigns Kerala a vulnerability score of just 1.073, near the minimum, because its per capita income is relatively high. Combined with a population score of 4, Kerala's DRI, of 34.5, is lower than many States with negligible disaster history. Jharkhand, with the second-highest vulnerability score reflecting genuine poverty and tribal fragility, still loses 0.78 percentage points of funding share because its population score cannot compensate in the multiplicative framework. Twenty States in total have lost relative share. The common thread is not that they are safer; it is that they are smaller, wealthier on average, or both.

What needs to change

Exposure should be measured as the number of people living within defined hazard zones, flood plains, cyclone-prone coastal belts, earthquake-susceptible zones, using the Building Materials and Technology Promotion Council (BMTPC) Vulnerability Atlas cross-referenced with Census enumeration block data. Vulnerability should be reconstituted as a composite index incorporating the share of kutcha housing, agricultural labour dependence, health infrastructure density in high-hazard districts, crop insurance penetration, and early warning effectiveness. The National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-5, the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) database, National Health Mission (NHM) facility surveys, and India Meteorological Department (IMD) monitoring records collectively provide that information. The Finance Commission should mandate the National Disaster Management Authority to publish an annual State Disaster Vulnerability Index as the authoritative input for each subsequent award period, institutionalising the methodology and ending contested metrics at every Commission.

India cannot afford to get disaster finance wrong. Climate projections indicate intensifying cyclone frequencies along both coastlines, expanding drought belts across peninsular and central India, and escalating extreme rainfall in already-stretched States. The States most likely to face the sharpest increase in disaster frequency – Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Assam – are precisely those the current formula underserves. A formula that measures total population rather than the exposed population is not a risk index. It is a headcount.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Rupee's steep fall

It is amusing that Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has gone on record to state that the Indian rupee is doing "absolutely fine" thanks to robust economic fundamentals. Comparisons with peers such as the Thai Baht and Philippine Peso conveniently hides the fact that the rupee plunged 10.96% in FY 26, its deepest fall in 14 years, making it Asia's worst performing currency. One cannot forget that the rupee was the only Asian currency to withstand the onslaught of the Asian currency crisis, in 1997, and remain stable against the dollar, when all other Asian currencies were in trouble. This was possible only due to the intelligent manner in which our currency was managed by the financial wizards who were at the helm of affairs.

Tharcius S. Fernando,
Chennai

The safety pin

This is no exaggeration, but the bonding that a safety pin has with clothing is much like a mother's bond with her child (Open Page – "Ode to the safety pin", March 29). Its brilliance lies in its versatility — mending, crafting, and emergency repairs. As a common practice, sterilised safety pins are used for removing thorns or splinters from the bottom of feet. In times of social and political unrest, it has been adopted as a symbol of unity, solidarity, and resistance. Its simple form and accessibility have made the safety pin a powerful tool for expressing collective sentiment.

R. Sivakumar,
Chennai

In Guwahati

Chennai Super Kings totally looked out of sorts in their first match of this edition of the Indian Premier League in Guwahati on Monday. That the team was all out for just 127 runs in 19.4 overs against Rajasthan Royals was deplorable indeed. Powered by lad Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, Rajasthan Royals made it a one-sided contest.

S. Ramakrishnasayee,
Chennai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

An impeachment move with no winners

A win-win situation benefits all stakeholders even if a compromise is reached in search of a workable alternative. It could even be a way in which the winning side deludes the losing side to perceive its loss as a necessary price it paid for survival.

The impeachment motion of the Opposition parties against the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) is one such example. It is a motion destined not to carry. Yet its prime movers may not see the loss as a defeat. But can the CEC see their loss as his victory?

The move of the Opposition parties is doubtlessly dramatic. However, the question that needs to be pondered by the well-wishers of the Election Commission of India (ECI) is what prompted them to don the gloves for a fight with no chance of victory. Perhaps, sometimes one fights not to win but to wound the opponent. And the troubling part is that political parties treat the CEC as an opponent.

Ashok Lavasa

Former Election Commissioner and Union Finance Secretary of India

Steadfast defiance

The move to impeach the CEC is a first in the history of an institution that is supposed to be a vanguard of Indian electoral democracy. "India built many institutions after attaining freedom and adopting a Republican constitution...If anyone were to conduct an opinion poll on which of these institutions rendered the best service to Indian democracy with the highest degree of integrity, I have no doubt that the ECI will be our people's first choice," said Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the then Prime Minister at the ECI's golden jubilee celebrations on January 17, 2001.

And now, 25 years later, 193 parliamentarians of the Opposition have submitted notices for an impeachment motion against the CEC citing charges of "partisan and discriminatory conduct", "obstruction of investigation into electoral fraud" and disenfranchisement via the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. The notice is as unprecedented as the manner in which the revision of electoral rolls has been undertaken despite serious challenge by most political parties, except the ruling dispensation. Such an alignment of thinking disconcerted the Opposition, which sharpened their attack against the CEC. The repeated press conferences by the Leader of the Opposition (LOP) exposing discrepancies in the electoral rolls of States where elections had been held, further eroded trust in the body.

While the aggressive style and severity of the LOP's attack on the poll body, questioning its integrity was surprising, what was more surprising was the poll body's obduracy in not providing a credible response to the doubts raised on its functioning and impartiality. As the attacks became more and more bitter, communication channels between the poll body and the opposition political parties seemed to choke.

The nation had seldom seen such a relentless campaign against a CEC even as the Supreme Court heard endless petitions against his decisions. As the petitions failed to yield any substantive relief, frustration mounted and so did the CEC's apparent indifference. The CEC persisted with the SIR despite the fortnight-long Vote Adhikar Yatra just before the Bihar State elections.

Not that there was no dialogue. The one between the poll body and the Trinamool Congress caused more rancour culminating in the theatrical presence of Mamata Banerjee in the Supreme Court. Never before had a Chief Minister appeared in Court arguing against the ECI's unfair decisions. The dharnas against the SIR in West Bengal or officials dying in the course of conducting the SIR failed to deter the CEC or change his avowed commitment to "purify" the electoral rolls.

The ECI invented the "logical discrepancy" tool that pitted electors against the AI used to detect discrepancies. West Bengal saw 58,20,899 electors deleted at the draft stage and 60,06,675 "under adjudication" in the final list. But the ECI went on to announce elections in the State, where the fate of nearly 10% electors remained undetermined. It employed micro-observers for finalising the revised rolls, something never done in the past. The SC also took the extraordinary step of appointing over 500 judicial officers to decide the fate of these electors in a short span.

It is unusual for a constitutional body mandated with electoral rolls preparation to involve another constitutional body in discharging its routine functions by disregarding the elector's voting right, which it was created to protect. The exclusion of even a single eligible voter due to the way the SIR has been conducted would legitimise the criticism of this arbitrary and aggressive exercise.

The exclusion of even a single eligible voter due to the way the SIR has been conducted would legitimise the criticism of this arbitrary and aggressive exercise

A loss for the common man

However, does all of this justify the impeachment move? The answer depends on which side of the divide one stands. The crores of voters who figure in the final electoral roll might not protest, treating the tension and trauma during the revision process as part of the routine struggle that helpless citizens go through to secure their rights. The voice of those excluded doesn't count in the elections in any case.

Eventually, the valid concern of protecting the right to vote turns into the lament of losers who are left with no choice but to resort to the ultimate constitutional weapon against the CEC.

Meanwhile, the ECI has sounded the poll bugle asking players to contest against each other rather than against the referee. It is now in full control. The successful completion of the poll process will justify all its decisions. Victors will exult; losers will find reasons to complain.

What the nation would be left with will be a poll body in which the Opposition, representing more than half the voting population, has expressed no confidence.

The TVK makes a go for it alone

The party seems to have not learnt its lesson from the Karur stampede

STATE OF PLAY

T. Ramakrishnan
ramakrishnan.t@thehindu.co.in

The fledgling Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), on March 29, crossed one of the most important stages of the electoral process, by naming candidates for all the 234 Assembly constituencies in the State.

Ever since the initial excitement about the TVK's entry into the political scene started evaporating after the Karur stampede that killed 41 persons in September last year, the party's founder C. Joseph Vijay (Tamil actor known only as Vijay) became a target of attack from his critics. Thanks to his party's litigation, the stampede case was transferred to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) from a Madras High Court-appointed Special Investigation Team (SIT) and a State-constituted enquiry commission. In two spells spread over two months, Mr. Vijay has faced interrogation by the CBI in New Delhi. Meanwhile, the talk of a decisive shift in the TVK's stand on the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which Mr. Vijay had called all along as the "ideological adversary," began doing the rounds a day before the actor-turned politician left for New Delhi. Sections of the media frantically reported that a host of district secretaries of the TVK had expressed, at an internal meeting held virtually, their preference for an alliance with the BJP.

Mr. Vijay had made it clear at the TVK's inaugural State-level conference in October 2024, that he was open to having pre-poll alliances and a coalition government, a concept which is anathema to the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) and the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK). Yet, barring the AIADMK and the BJP which had sought to court the TVK, others, including allies of the DMK, stayed aloof in the light of buzz from certain quarters that the Congress and the Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi might move towards the TVK.

An interesting potpourri

It was against this backdrop that the TVK came out with its list of nominees in one go. As of now, only one more party – the 16-year-old Naam Tamilar Katchi (NTK) – is contesting in all the seats. Mr. Vijay is contesting from Perambur in north Chennai, once a seat reserved for Scheduled Castes (SCs) but now a general constituency with economically vulnerable sections of society living in large numbers, and from Tiruchi East, a seat in the central region of the State with a substantial population of Christians, especially Vellalas (the denomination to which Mr. Vijay's father S.A. Chandrasekhar belongs), and Muslims. The party has fielded many of its prominent faces in Chennai, including AIADMK's former veteran, J.C.D. Prabhakar (Thousand Lights), and the TVK's general secretary 'Bussy' N. Anand (T. Nagar).

As per an estimate, about 45% of the candidates –106 nominees – are from other parties. While no one would have anything negative to comment about giving tickets to former School Education Minister K.A. Sengottaiyan and his associate V. Sathyabama, who, as Tiruppur's MP during 2014-19, took her job seriously in terms of participating in debates (both joined the party about four months ago), Mr. Vijay's decision with respect to some others caused disquiet among party cadres. There was an element of surprise over the inclusion of two former MLAs of the Dravidian major, Dusi K. Mohan and Reddiyarpatti V. Narayanan and a senior office-bearer of the Congress D. Selvam, all of whom joined the TVK at the last minute. When the TVK founder held a meeting at a hotel in Chennai, sections of party cadres staged a demonstration outside the hotel, protesting against the choice of candidate for K.V. Kuppam, a constituency reserved for SCs in Vellore.

Lack of crowd control

On the first day of filing nominations, Mr. Vijay submitted his papers in Perambur but his plan for campaigning in three Chennai seats suffered a setback as he was not able to cover the third constituency, for which his party blamed the police. While after the Karur stampede, TVK functionaries would be expected to be more meticulous to detail, this campaign incident proves that they have become none the wiser. Instead of blaming the police or officials, the party managers should take a cue from how crowd management was handled during the annual temple festival of Arubathumoovar (idols of the 63 Nayanmars) on the same day in Mylapore smoothly, despite the event being watched by thousands of devotees. Else, one does not have to hazard a great guess about the result.

How women voters are shaping State politics in 2026

Even though women are increasingly shaping party strategies and political outcomes, their representation in State Assemblies remain low

DATA POINT

Sanjay Kumar
Vibha Attri

Women voters have become a central point of discussion in elections in India in recent times. Rightly so, because parties in power roll out women-centric schemes, sometimes even direct cash transfer ones, to win their support. Opposition parties too make promises about initiating schemes for women's welfare, if elected. These promises seem to making some impact, reflected in the rising turnout of women voters. Parties appear to have mobilised women through welfare schemes, and this mobilisation is seen as a key factor for electoral success.

The upcoming Assembly elections in Assam, Kerala, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu are unlikely to be different. Women, who constitute nearly half of the electorate in each State (and slightly more in Kerala), are a key focus of all political parties. Electoral trends show that while turnout has increased, women remain underrepresented in State assemblies. However, evidence from Lokniti-CSDS data suggest that their voting choices have somewhat shaped party strategies and political outcomes.

Across all four States, women's voter turnout has remained high and largely stable over the past three decades, often matching or slightly exceeding men's participation **(Table 1)**. In Assam, the gender gap narrowed from -1.48 percentage points in 1991 to +0.41 in 2021. Kerala shows a similar trend, with women voting at levels equal to or slightly higher than men. In 2016, women's turnout surpassed men's, with a gap of +2.17 percentage points. By 2021, the turnout was nearly equal, with a gap of +0.09 percentage points.

In West Bengal, women's turnout remained slightly below men's until 2011, when it surpassed men's for the first time and maintained a marginal lead in the subsequent election (+0.38 percentage points in 2021). Tamil Nadu, historically lower in voter participation compared to other States, reached near parity by 2011, and women's turnout has remained close to men's turnout through 2021, with only a minimal gap of -0.27 percentage points.

Representation in Assemblies

While women have consistently shown high voter participation, converting this engagement into representation in State Assemblies remains a persistent challenge. Over the past three decades, the proportion of women elected to Assemblies in all four States have varied, but remained low.

In Assam, women's representation rose from 3.97% in 1991 to a peak of 11.11% in 2011, but fell to 4.76% in 2021 (six of 126 seats). Kerala shows a relatively stable but persistently low level of women's representation, with women legislators occupying between 5% and 9% of seats over the years. In 2021, only 11 women were elected, accounting for just 7.86% of the 140-seat Assembly.

West Bengal stands out for gradual gains rising from 7.14% in 1991 to 13.95% in 2016, and 13.61% in 2021. In 2021 about 40 women were elected to the 294-member Assembly, the highest among these States. Tamil Nadu presents the most volatile trajectory. Representation peaked at 13.68% in 1991 but fell sharply to 3.85% in 1996. In 2021, women's representation stood at 5.13%, with 12 women elected to the 234-seat Assembly

On voting patterns

Survey-based estimates from Assembly election studies conducted by the Lokniti-CSDS provide insight into how women have voted over time. In Assam, there has been a clear shift. In 2011, the Congress led among women voters with 39% of women voting for them, while the BJP secured 10%. By 2021, the BJP-led alliance increased its women's vote share to 44%. The Mahajot alliance also secured significant support, receiving 33% in 2016 and 41% in 2021, making the contest more competitive **(Table 2)**.

Kerala presents a closely contested pattern between the United Democratic Front (UDF) and the Left Democratic Front (LDF) with women's support nearly equal in 2011 and 2016. In the 2021 Assembly elections, the LDF gained a modest advantage securing 45% of women's votes compared to the UDF's 41%. The BJP which contested independently in 2011 received 5% of the women's votes. In 2016 and 2021, contesting as part of an alliance, its share rose to 12% and 11% respectively, but it remains a secondary player in a largely bipolar contest **(Table 3)**.

In West Bengal, the Trinamool Congress (AITC), whether contesting alone or in alliance, has consistently secured close to 50% of the women's vote. The BJP, contesting independently in 2011 and 2016, received 4% and 10% of the women's votes, respectively. By 2021, the BJP and its allies expanded sharply among women voters, receiving 36% of the votes, pointing to some restructuring of the electoral landscape **(Table 4)**.

Tamil Nadu shows alternating patterns between the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) and the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK). The AIADMK led among women voters in 2016 (46%), but the DMK alliance overtook it in 2021 with 45% compared to the 42% of the AIADMK and its allies **(Table 5)**.

Despite their high participation, women remain a small minority in State legislatures. Over the past three decades, structural barriers such as limited party nominations, competitive electoral dynamics and social and cultural constraints have constrained representation. Yet, their voting patterns increasingly shape party strategies and influence political contests.

Women's electoral power

The data for the tables were sourced from Lokniti-CSDS

TABLE 1: The gender gap in voter turnout in State elections. (+) indicates higher turnout of women compared to men, (-) indicates lower turnout of women

Year	Assam	Kerala	West Bengal	Tamil Nadu
2021	+0.41	+0.09	+0.38	-0.27
2016	+0.34	+2.17	+0.9	+0.17
2011	-1.91	-0.3	+0.23	+0.98
2006	-1.6	-2.09	-1.59	-3.66
2001	-5.49	-3.72	-5.3	-4.47
1996	-2.54	-1.65	-1.94	-4.3
1991	-1.48	-0.31	-1.57	-4.25

TABLE 2: Party-wise women's voting trends in Assam Assembly elections (in %)

Year	Mahajot/Congress/ Congress+	NDA/ BJP	AIUDF	Others
2021	41	44	-	15
2016	33	42	13	12
2011	39	10	13	38

TABLE 3: Party-wise women's voting trends in Kerala Assembly elections (in %)

Year	UDF	LDF	NDA/BJP	Others
2021	41	45	11	3
2016	42	42	12	4
2011	46	45	5	4

TABLE 4: Party-wise women's voting trends in West Bengal Assembly polls (in %)

Year	AITC+/ AITC	BJP+/ BJP	Sanyukth Morcha/INC	Left	Others
2021	50	36	10	-	4
2016	47	10	11	25	7
2011	49	4	-	40	7

TABLE 5: Party-wise women's voting trends in Tamil Nadu Assembly polls (in %)

Year	DMK+	AIADMK/ ADMK+	BJP	Others
2021	45	42	-	13
2016	35	46	3	16
2011	40	51	2	7

Sanjay Kumar is a Professor and Political Analyst.Vibha Attri is a Research Associate at Lokniti-CSDS

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO APRIL 1, 1976

Prosperity brigade and youth service corps to go

Madras, March 31: Both the Prosperity Brigade and the Youth Services corps started by the previous DMK regime in Tamil Nadu are to go.

While the Prosperity Brigade will be wound up immediately, the members of the YSC will be discharged on completion of four years of service. The Government found that the Brigade had ceased to be the non-political organisation that it purported to be, the contribution of YSC to improvement of rural economy was "not very satisfactory".

At his weekly press conference to-day, the Governor Mr. K.K. Shah said the Brigade was brought into existence in February 1968 with the objective of developing local leadership and better utilisation of rural manpower. Over the past eight years, it had undertaken small works, which did not involve a high degree of technical skill, with the Government's contribution ranging from 50 per cent for building works and 33-1/3 per cent for other works.

"The organisation was expected to be non-political in character. But, in fact, it was not so. Even the enlistment of volunteers at village level had a political bias," he said. The organisational set-up and co-ordination at various levels were "not good".

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO APRIL 1, 1926

Royal geographical society

Rugby, March 31: Several prominent British explorers have been awarded medals with the approval of the King by Royal Geographical society.

These include Col. Norton, who has received the Founder's Medal for his leadership of the Mount Everest expedition in 1924 and his ascent to 28,100 feet and Professor Sir Edgeworth David for his work on Fanafuti Attoll and his leadership of the first ascent of Mount Erebus and of the party which first visited the South Magnetic Pole.

Other awards and grants are given to Dr. John Ball for his desert surveys in Egypt, to Mr. Frank Debenham for scientific exploration of Antarctic to Afraz, Mr. Gul for his surveys in Central Asia and Mr. Hunza, to Major Kenneth Masen to assist his future exploration of Himalayas, to Dr. Gordon Thompson for his journey on Tibetan and Mongolian borders of China.

From Page One

Trump blasts allies, tells them 'get your own oil'

"This is not our war and we're not going to get drawn in to it," Mr. Starmer had said on Monday, in reference to Iran, reiterating that the U.K.'s involvement was restricted to defensive action.

U.K. Defence Secretary John Healey, on a visit to West Asia, said on Tuesday that extra British troops and air defence systems would be deployed to the region, according to a BBC report.

Several European countries have disagreed publicly with the U.S.'s actions to varying degrees, with none joining the U.S. and Israel in striking Iran.

Remarks on France

Mr. Trump also took aim at France in his Tuesday posts.

"The Country of France wouldn't let planes headed to Israel, loaded up with military supplies, fly over French territory. France has been VERY UNHELPFUL with respect to the 'Butcher of Iran' [Ayatollah Ali Khamenei] who has been successfully eliminated! The U.S.A. will REMEMBER!!!" Mr. Trump wrote on Truth Social. *The Hindu* has reached out to the French foreign ministry for a response.

On Monday, Mr. Trump had threatened to destroy oil wells, power plants, Iran's Kharg Island (an oil hub) and desalination plants, if Iran did not reach a deal with the U.S. and open up the Strait of Hormuz.

U.S. Secretary of War Pete Hegseth reiterated Mr. Trump's message during a press briefing at the Pentagon on Tuesday. He said the world should "be prepared to stand up" and that it was not just America's "problem set" going forward, claiming that the U.S. had done the "lion's share" of opening up the Strait.

Eight killed in Bihar temple stampede

The incident took place as a large number of devotees, mostly women, had gathered to offer prayer at the temple in Maghra village, near Biharsharief town, on Tuesday morning, including many from the neighbouring districts of Patna and Nawada.

"Due to the heavy rush of devotees at the temple to offer prayer, a stampede happened in which eight lives were lost, some due to suffocation and some due to loss of water, Nalanda Superintendent of Police Bharat Soni said. Police personnel from neighbouring districts were called in to control the situation.

The Deep Nagar Station House Officer Rajmani was suspended, along with some others, and a Special Investigation Team (SIT) has been formed to probe the incident, said Bihar Director General of Police Vinay Kumar, who reached the site of the stampede along with other senior police officials from Patna. Bihar Chief Secretary Pratyaya Amrit has also been instructed to initiate a probe into the incident and submit a report to the government.

"All the injured persons have been admitted to the Sadar hospital at Biharsharief, the district headquarters, and are said to be out of danger," said District Magistrate Kundan Kumar.

Mr. Kumar expressed his grief at the tragedy and announced an *ex gratia* of ₹6 lakh to the families of the victims, including ₹4 lakh from the Disaster Management Department and ₹2 lakh from the CM's Relief Fund. Mr. Modi announced ₹2 lakh in financial aid to be paid to the families from the PM's National Relief Fund, and ₹50,000 to the injured. Ms. Murmu also expressed her condolences to the bereaved families and prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured.

Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Tejashwi Yadav expressed his condolences and demanded that the State government "initiate a high-level probe into the stampede" and take care of all those injured in the incident.

'India can comfortably cater to PNG demand'

India's current production of natural gas was 90 million metric standard cubic meters per day. Therefore, India could comfortably cater to about 30 crore connections solely with its domestic production of natural gas itself, he said.

"Even if we are just reserving the [domestic natural gas] production for domestic PNG, we should be able to make provisions for 30 crore connections," Mr. Mishra said. "So, even if you scale up to say two crore, or five crore, we are totally sufficient with respect to our domestic consumption."

"We are trying to achieve 20,000 connections every day," he said. "At present, we are hovering around 8,000-9,000 connections per day; we are definitely trying to scale the level."

He further noted that, with permissions being accorded on a "war footing" by the government, municipal corporations, among other entities concerned, had played an active role in the attempt to reach the target.

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, in a gazette notification dated March 24, had introduced norms to help accelerate the uptake of and transition to PNG.

Addressing concerns about the requirement of additional capital expenditure amid the expedited push for PNG and pipeline expansion, Mr. Mishra said the accelerated push would provide the city gas distributors (CGDs) an opportunity to infuse their available capital more rapidly.

Violence erupts at Kolkata CEO office over Form 6 row

Mamata alleges that BJP is trying to smuggle outsiders into State voter list for 'voter hijacking'; CEO says it is not his job to check Form 6 submissions; CM threatened Central forces, says BJP

Shrabana Chatterjee
KOLKATA

The police intervene as BJP supporters gather outside EC office during Trinamool Congress protest in Kolkata on Tuesday. ANI

Violence erupted outside the Chief Electoral Officer's office in Kolkata on Tuesday, with clashes between Trinamool Congress and BJP workers over allegations that Form 6, used for fresh inclusion of names on the electoral roll, is being submitted in large numbers in West Bengal.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee wrote to Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar about the issue. "BJP agents have been caught red-handed flooding the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), West Bengal with thousands of fraudulent Form 6 applications to smuggle non-residents into Bengal's electoral rolls. This is an attempt at voter hijacking," Ms. Banerjee alleged, calling for the Election Commission to punish such actions which are "illegal, unconstitutional, and fundamentally undemocratic in nature." In response, CEO Manoj Kumar Agarwal said: "This is not my work. I cannot keep checking who is bringing what into my office. Should I conduct elections in the whole State or keep doing this?"

An organisation of booth-level officers (BLOs) supported by the ruling Trinamool Congress alleged that it had caught a BJP worker carrying over 400 Form 6 applications into the CEO's office. The BLOs and Trinamool workers staged a protest outside the office, flagging this issue. BJP workers also reached the spot and engaged with the Trinamool workers, leading to a heated exchange.

Protesters of the ruling party alleged that the BJP was trying to enroll voters from outside Bengal to influence the polls in its favour. Central forces and local police were both deployed to the spot to bring the tense situation under control. The police, armed with batons, charged protesters in a bid to de-escalate the heated scuffle between the party workers.

This came a day after Trinamool Congress general secretary Abhishek Banerjee sent a formal complaint to the CEO, alleging that the EC is changing the demography of Bengal by including voters from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh in the State's electoral rolls. He said the BJP had submitted at least 30,000 Form 6 applications in bulk.

Leader of the Opposition Suvendu Adhikari lodged a complaint against Ms. Banerjee for provoking voters against the Central forces. "She is asking the women of the house to fight the Central forces. This is a direct attack against the officers engaged in election work," he alleged.

Meanwhile, the EC has started accepting online applications by voters who have been deleted from the final voter list but want to contest the decision in an appellate tribunal.

HC quashes petition against EC transfer of West Bengal officials

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

The court said that attempts were made to link certain politicians and CEC.

Observing that the legality, validity and propriety of transfer orders issued by the Election Commission have not caused any public injury, the Calcutta High Court on Tuesday dismissed a PIL petition challenging the transfer of administrative and police officers in West Bengal.

"The transfer is an incident of service. If a transfer order runs contrary to any statutory provision, the aggrieved employee/officer can assail it in appropriate proceedings. In our view, the legality, validity and propriety of transfer orders which have not caused any public injury cannot be gone into a public interest litigation," the order by the Division Bench of Chief Justice Sujoy Paul and Justice Partha Sarathi Sen said.

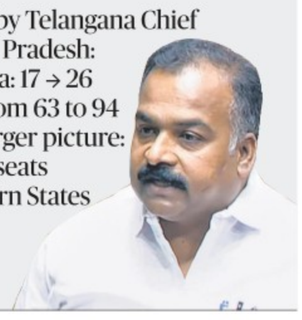
The EC has transferred a large number of officers since the Model Code of Conduct came into force. The Trinamool Congress has claimed that 395 officers have been transferred.

The Bench noted that attempts were made to link certain senior politicians and CEC Gyanesh Kumar."The petitioner made an effort to establish a political nexus between certain senior politicians and the respondent. However, as rightly pointed out by learned counsel for the ECI, no such persons against whom allegations of connivance, pressure tactics etc. were alleged were impleaded by name. Thus, no allegation of malice can be entertained against the ECI. Apart from bald pleadings, no material could be placed to establish any such nexus," the court noted.

'Regional imbalance' bothers Cong. as govt. plans delimitation to roll out women's quota

Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

> As highlighted by Telangana Chief Minister... Uttar Pradesh: 80 → 120 seats, Telangana: 17 → 26 seats. The gap widens from 63 to 94 seats. Now look at the larger picture: southern States gain 66 seats (129 → 195), while northern States gain 200 seats
>
> **MANICKAM TAGORE**
> Congress MP



The Union government's proposal to carry out the delimitation exercise on the basis of the 2011 Census in order to implement the women's reservation law by the 2029 Lok Sabha election has not only reversed its earlier position but has also prompted the Congress to nuance its stance.

Until recently, the government had maintained that the law could be implemented only after the completion of the delimitation exercise linked to the first Census conducted after 2026.

The Congress, which had earlier pressed for the immediate implementation of the women's reservation law, is now demanding an all-party meeting to discuss the potential impact of such a move. Party leaders argue that if the strength of the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies is increased uniformly by around 50%, States with larger populations would automatically gain more seats, widening the existing representation gap.

The issue was first publicly flagged by Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, who pointed to the implications of a population-based increase in seats for southern States. Except for Andhra Pradesh, where the Telugu Desam Party, a member of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), is in power, the other southern States are ruled by non-NDA parties that could potentially take a common stance on the issue.

The Centre, however, has already rejected the Congress's demand for an all-party consultation.

"As highlighted by Telangana Chief Minister @revanth_anumula garu – Uttar Pradesh: 80 → 120 seats, Telangana: 17 → 26 seats. The gap widens from 63 to 94 seats. Now look at the larger picture: Southern States gain 66 seats (129 → 195), while northern States gain 200 seats," Congress MP Manickam Tagore said in a post on *X*.

Though no official proposal has been placed in the public domain, government sources are said to be examining the possibility of increasing the strength of the Lok Sabha from 543 to around 816 seats, with 33% reserved for women in line with the provisions of the women's reservation law.

Mr. Tagore said that while a uniform 50% increase in seats might appear fair, the underlying population disparities between regions would inevitably tilt parliamentary representation towards States with higher population growth in the Hindi belt. "Southern States risk being pushed to the political margins," he said.

Beyond the emerging north-south debate, the Congress is also seeking clarity on how the government proposes to address demands for representation of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes within the women's reservation framework. Congress Parliamentary Party Chairperson Sonia Gandhi had raised this issue during a Lok Sabha debate in 2023.

Congress to protest against FCRA Bill

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Tuesday accused the Union government of attempting to "bulldoze" amendments to the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) in Parliament and announced a protest by its MPs on Wednesday morning.

In a post on X, Congress general secretary (organisation) K. C. Venugopal alleged the government was pushing the amendments when Opposition parties were engaged in an "intense election season" and called the law "blatantly unconstitutional," warning it would harm NGOs and community oganisations, especially those run by minority communities.

42,000-sq. km Bastar largely free from violence, but IEDs remain a challenge

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Former Maoist insurgents attend a vocational training programme in Dantewada district. AFP

From tracking the movement of security teams out on patrol with satellite-enabled navigation devices and ensuring communication through satellite phones, to opening new security camps in the so-called liberated zones in the Bastar division of Chhattisgarh, the State Police and the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) followed a clear strategy to declare the 42,000-sq. km area "Maoist-free" by March 31, a deadline set by Union Home Minister Amit Shah on August 24, 2024.

The number of districts affected by left-wing extremism, often referred to as the red corridor, has shrunk from 126 districts across Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal, Bihar, Maharashtra, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh in 2014 to just two districts – Bijapur and Sukma (in Chhattisgarh) – in 2026. In 2005 the number of affected districts stood at around 230. Many districts were reorganised in the following years.

Bihar, Maharashtra (barring one district), Jharkhand, and Odisha had already been declared free of Maoist activities before 2024, Home Minister Amit Shah informed the Lok Sabha on March 30. Bastar was one of the regions worst affected by left-wing extremism.

Sundarraj P., Inspector-General of Police, Bastar Range, told *The Hindu* that as new security camps were opened in Bastar, the influence of the Maoists dwindled. "The movement of each patrol team was tracked through GPS devices. To tide over connectivity issues in the interior, satellite phones were used. If a team came under fire, the reinforcements were sent from the nearest camp. The change in strategy helped in bringing down the number of casualties, unlike earlier when teams were out patrolling for two or three days; it was like shooting in the dark," the officer said.

According to the Bastar Police Action and Outcome Report, security camps are no longer limited to troop deployment but operate as Integrated Development Centres, helping extend governance, welfare schemes, and essential services to previously inaccessible villages. The expansion of these camps is described as central to restoring territorial control and public trust.

Mr. Sundarraj said that though the area had been almost cleared of the presence of Maoists, with the exception of seven or eight cadres, the challenge posed by Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) remained. "We will take some time to de-mine the areas and declare them free of IEDs that may have been planted by the Maoists before they deserted their camps or surrendered," Mr. Sundarraj said.

Mr. Sundarraj said that the incidents of Maoists damaging infrastructure had decreased significantly, with only two incidents of damage to mobile phone towers reported in 2025.

NIA, ED bust Maoist extortion, money laundering rackets

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A sustained and coordinated crackdown by various agencies, including the National Investigation Agency (NIA) and the Enforcement Directorate (ED), has disrupted the financial networks of banned Maoist outfits in recent years.

The NIA has a dedicated anti-Naxal vertical that is probing over 100 cases and has filed chargesheets in almost 90 cases. It has also seized assets worth more than ₹40 crore.

Among the major cases is the 2019 Tiriya encounter (Chhattisgarh), in which it has charged five senior Maoist operatives, besides others. In the Magadh (Bihar) revival case, 10 weapons and ₹4.03 crore in cash were seized.

Under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act , the ED has attached assets worth more than ₹12 crore and filed prosecution complaints against the Maoists who targeted businessmen, contractors, workers, and even truck drivers for "protection money".

APPEAL

Shri Koushik is 11 years old suffering from Heart Ailment and is advised VSD Closure & PDA Closure at Public Health Centre, Chennai. The total expenditure is **Rs. 2,00,000/-**. His father is working in a tea shop with poor income. They are not in a position to meet the cost of the treatment. Please help him to undergo the surgery and lead a healthy life. The donations sent through Ch/D.D/ M.O/ NEFT Transfer & GOOGLE PAY (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/c No. 60182010063310, IFSC No: CNRB0016018) favouring **WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE** is exempted under 80G IT. Your e-mail ID is requested.

All correspondence is done through **WWS,** Regd Public Charitable Trust, **Flat No. GF 1, Corddel Apartments, O.No.13, N.No. 29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai-600006. Ph: 044-42137401/ 31523781/ 7338978027. E-mail ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com.**

WWS

ASSEMBLY POLLS

Leander Paes joins BJP ahead of Bengal polls

Ahead of the election in West Bengal, Indian tennis legend Leander Paes on Tuesday joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) at the party headquarters.

Union Ministers Kiren Rijiju and Sukanta Majumdar, along with Anil Baluni, MP, were present on the occasion.

In October 2021, prior to the Goa Assembly election, Mr. Paes had joined the Trinamool Congress in the presence of party chief and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

Mr. Paes, born in Kolkata in 1973, is a descendant of 19th-century Bengali poet and dramatist Michael Madhusudan Dutt.

One of India's most successful tennis players, Mr. Paes has won 18 Grand Slam titles and bagged a bronze medal in singles at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics.

Tennis legend Leander Paes joined the BJP on Tuesday. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

BJP names 13 more candidates for Bengal polls

The BJP on Tuesday announced the names of 13 candidates for the West Bengal polls, including Union Minister Shantanu Thakur's wife Soma Thakur for the Bagda seat.

Shyamal Hati will contest Howrah Dakshin, Girija Shankar Roy Natabari, Ashutosh Barma Sitai, and Uttam Kumar Banik Magrahat Purba. Debangshu Panda will enter the fray from Falta, Debashish Dhar from Sonarpur Uttar and Ranjan Kumar Paul from Panchla.

Santhosh Pathak will be contesting from Chowrangee, Piyush Kanti Das from Chandipur, Pradeep Lodha from Garbeta, Manav Guha from Memari, Arijit Roy from Barabani and Dalim Roy from Maynaguri.

Polling for the 294-member West Bengal Assembly will be held on April 23 and 29. PTI

> It is not about making someone an MLA or Himanta Assam CM again. It is about chasing out every infiltrator from our country
>
> **SMRITI IRANI**
> BJP leader

IPS officers given additional duties in Bengal

The Kolkata Police has nominated senior IPS officers Nilanjan Biswas, Ajoy Prasad and Subhankar Bhattacharya to take up additional duties as nodal officers for the District Election Officers of Kolkata North, Kolkata South and South 24 Parganas district, respectively, according to an official order. PTI

> Both the MP and the MLA in Balurghat [in Bengal] are from the BJP. Yet they have not brought even 10 paise of additional funds for this area
>
> **ABHISHEK BANERJEE**
> Trinamool Congress secretary

Poll race: Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin campaigns in Tiruvannamalai on Tuesday. ANI

Poll campaign turns into a sop opera in Tamil Nadu

T. Ramakrishnan
CHENNAI

With the Assembly election to be held in three weeks, it is time for major parties in Tamil Nadu, which has earned the sobriquet of "freebie State", to come up with their own schemes of enticements for electors, totalling over 5.67 crore.

Among the proposals on the table are an increase in the amount of monthly assistance for women from ₹1,000 to ₹2,000, and coupons worth ₹8,000 for every non-income tax-paying woman (homemaker) to buy consumer durables, both promised by the ruling Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), whose electoral promise of providing ₹1,000 each to women was regarded as one of the factors responsible for the return of the Dravidian major to power after a 10-year gap.

There are other schemes, such as Pudhumai Penn and Tamil Puthalvan, both aimed at encouraging government school students to pursue higher education, wherein the party has assured the electorate that the assistance amount would go up to ₹1,500.

Assistance for one crore women

The ruling party's traditional adversary, the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK), which began issuing its dose of poll guarantees in mid-January and concluded it in the last week of March by issuing a comprehensive poll manifesto, was the first to announce the enhanced assistance of ₹2,000 each to women. In an act of one-upmanship, the party stated that all women holding family cards would be covered. This means the number of beneficiaries would be increased by one crore from the current 1.23 crore. If this assurance is implemented, the annual outlay would shoot up to around ₹55,200 crore.

The party has promised free refrigerators for all rice cardholders, numbering about 2.22 crore. There are a host of other benefits, including free 1 kg lentils and 1 kg of cooking oil, for beneficiaries of the public distribution system.

Not to be left behind, the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) has proposed hiking the assistance amount to ₹2,500 for women, gifting one sovereign of gold under the marriage assistance scheme and providing an unemployment allowance of ₹4,000 for graduates, which is similar to that of the AIADMK that offers ₹2,000.

There is an "odd man out" in the form of the Naam Tamilar Katchi (NTK), which is against freebies as a matter of principle.

Rising revenue deficit

The promises come at a time when the State's revenue deficit for 2026-27 is estimated to be ₹48,700 crore, a figure worked out independently of such offers. Besides, Tamil Nadu has been, at the all-India level, assessed as one of those States whose expenditure on subsidies as a percentage of revenue receipts exceeds the national average.

It is an open secret that the promises of freebies alone do not guarantee victory to any party, as invariably every other party has been making such promises.

Though some public policy experts argue that not every freebie scheme needs to be condemned, the State's major parties are unwilling to disturb the status quo despite knowing that certain schemes do not yield the desired results or are being continued purposelessly.

Parties rework strategy amid increasing acrimony as Kerala race enters final leg

What began as a campaign centred on development, inflation, unemployment has since shifted to conspiracy theories of backroom deal between rival coalitions and cynical identity politics marked by communal overtones; it is shaping up into a direct confrontation between the LDF and UDF

Election trail: (from left) Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, Leader of the Opposition V. D. Satheesan, and BJP Kerala unit president Rajeev Chandrasekhar during poll campaigns. NIRMAL HARINDRAN, PTI

IN FOCUS

Biju Govind
KOZHIKODE

With barely a week remaining before campaigning ends for the Kerala Assembly election, the major political fronts are overhauling their strategies and intensifying their push to win over the electorate for the single-phase polling on April 9.

The electoral battle is crystallising into a direct confrontation between the ruling CPI(M)-led Left Democratic Front (LDF) and an invigorated Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF), with the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) struggling to muscle in as a third force in the sweepstakes.

Against this backdrop, what began as an election focused on development, inflation, and unemployment has since evolved into something far murkier. Conspiracy theories about backroom deals between rival coalitions and cynical identity politics with communal overtones involving outfits such as the SDPI and the Jamaat-e-Islami Hind are now dominating the final leg of electioneering.

As campaigning reaches a fever pitch, big names have landed in the State. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who has already visited Palakkad and Thrissur, is expected to return next week for a final blitz in the southern districts. Rahul Gandhi, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, has electrified the race with a string of charged rallies, while his sister and AICC general secretary, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, is expected to begin her campaign shortly.

Rocky start for UDF

While the UDF was energised by an unexpected victory in the three-tier local body polls held in December 2025, the coalition has spent much of this campaign firefighting internally over who should be the Chief Ministerial candidate should the UDF come to power.

The party lagged behind in releasing its list of candidates; and the public drama surrounding K. Sudhakaran, an MP who put the party leadership on tenterhooks over his candidature, has taken the shine off the Opposition's charge.

The UDF is now attempting to resurrect the Sabarimala gold theft scandal, while balancing it with a manifesto centred on social welfare and financial security, specifically targeting youth and women.

LDF's stance

However, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan hit back at Mr. Gandhi over the Sabarimala gold case, questioning how the prime accused, Unnikrishnan Potti, accompanied by senior Congress leaders, was seen with Sonia Gandhi at her residence in Delhi.

Meanwhile, the LDF, which began its campaign relying on the raw political instinct of Mr. Vijayan, is aiming to highlight a decade of continuity with development initiatives and welfare schemes. Yet, the Left Front faces a reckoning as it deals with internal erosion. Dissidents-turned-UDF-backed candidates in Kannur, Palakkad, and Alappuzha are mounting a challenge.

Congress leaders, including Mr. Gandhi, are reiterating allegations of a clandestine understanding between the CPI(M) and the BJP. To support this, they point to the lack of progress in investigation in the gold smuggling case. The CPI(M) has rubbished this, while the BJP has dismissed it as a bluff.

As for the NDA, the coalition is attempting to break the traditional two-party dominance by converting its vote share into actual seats, a daunting task that has previously stalled at the finish line. Its leadership is focusing on hard metrics from the Lok Sabha election in 2024 to prove an organic expansion of the party base.

FCRA issue

The BJP's "minority diplomacy" with the Christian electorate appears desperate to clear the hurdle over the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) issue.

The proposed amendments have alarmed the Church leadership, forcing the BJP to work double-time to neutralise the fallout in central Kerala and alter negative perceptions.

Khela Hobe: game on as Trinamool fields sportspersons in north Bengal

Shiv Sahay Singh
RAJGANJ/TUFANJANJ

An Asian Games gold medal-winning athlete and a former first-class cricketer who represented Bengal in the Ranji Trophy are the Trinamool Congress candidates taking on Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) nominees in north Bengal.

Swapna Barman, the first Indian heptathlete to win an Asian Games gold in 2018 is the Trinamool candidate for the Rajganj Assembly seat in Jalpaiguri district. On Monday, Northeast Frontier Railway authorities formally accepted her resignation and issued her a clearance letter to contest the election.

The celebrated athlete, who joined the ruling party weeks before the polls on February 27, says she realises that sports and politics are different disciplines.

"Sports is a very different field and cannot be compared to politics. In sports, individual dedication and hard work matters and brings success. In politics, everything is dependent on the will of the people," Ms. Barman told *The Hindu*.

Swapna Barman and Shib Shankar Paul.

Swapna Barman is contesting from Rajganj; Shib Shankar Paul is contesting from Tufanganj

Sports academy

The 29-year-old, who hails from Jalpaiguri, is promising that if elected, she will try and set up a sports academy in her constituency. "I want many Swapna Barmans to emerge from North Bengal," she said.

Often seen posing with tea garden workers, Ms. Barman describes herself as "the local daughter who does not need an introduction" and who has been sent by Trinamool Congress chairperson Mamata Banerjee.

Hailing from the Rajbangshi community, Ms. Barman grew up in Jalpaiguri and won many laurels, including the prestigious Arjuna Award.

"The people in my constituency are very simple, they just want peace and development. I will strive for that," she said.

The athlete is contesting against BJP's Dinesh Sarkar, who has links with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh.

The CPI(M) has fielded Kharendranath Roy from the area dotted by tea gardens.

Cricket to politics

About 150 km from Rajganj is the Tufanganj Assembly seat in Cooch Behar district, where former first-class cricketer Shib Shankar Paul is the election fray on Trinamool ticket.

The 46-year-old was a right-arm fast bowler and had represented the Bengal cricket team for several years.

He joined the Trinamool on March 16, a day before the party announced candidates for the polls.

"I prepare for poll campaigns like I used to prepare for a match. I exercise, then I do my homework about the place I am visiting," said the former cricketer who was also included in India's Test squad during the 2004-05 series against Australia.

Mr. Paul says that both cricket and politics do not come easily to anyone. "Playing cricket is very difficult, no one can say they will get these many runs or wickets. Same way politics is also difficult... But I feel happy that I can reach people and understand their problems," he said.

The former bowler says than when he was playing or coaching, he could help only a handful of people, but after joining Trinamool and contesting polls, he hopes that he can come to the aid of the masses.

He is contesting against BJP's two-term MLA Malati Rava Roy who has served as a district president of the party. The CPI(M) has fielded Dhananjay Rava.

In the past, the Trinamool has fielded several candidates from the Bengali television and film industry, but this time the party has pinned hopes on sportspersons to revive its prospects in north Bengal.

BJP's Assam poll manifesto promises UCC, land rights

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Tuesday released its manifesto for the April 9 Assam Assembly election, promising to work towards implementing the Uniform Civil Code (UCC), protecting the land, heritage, and dignity of indigenous people, and pushing its development agenda.

Releasing the 31-point "Sankalp Patra" at the party's State headquarters in Guwahati, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman highlighted Assam's "transformative change over the last 10 years", which, she said, had fuelled economic growth of the State and the rest of the northeastern region.

Among the main promises are the implementation of the Immigrants (Expulsion from Assam) Act, 1950, to expedite detection and deportation of illegal immigrants; removing encroachment by illegal immigrants; and granting land rights to citizens.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said the manifesto emphasised the protection of land and its genuine citizens. "We will strengthen the legislative protections to preserve the civilisation, heritage, and rights of the people of Assam by working towards the implementation of the UCC, excluding the Sixth Schedule areas and tribal communities, while ensuring the traditional rights of ethnic communities," he said.

Nirmala Sitharaman

The BJP promised to formulate an effective Act to end "love jihad".

Further, it promised to ensure education for all, including free education from KG to PG for the economically weaker sections, build world-class institutions, and expand the teacher workforce.

"We will strengthen the economic independence of the women of Assam by increasing the monthly assistance under the Orunodoi Scheme to ₹3,000 (from the current ₹1,250) in a phased manner," the manifesto read.

INBRIEF

Defence Ministry signs ₹1,950-crore deal with BEL

The Defence Ministry on Tuesday signed a ₹1,950-crore contract with Bharat Electronics Ltd. (BEL) for the procurement of two mountain radars for the Indian Air Force. According to the Ministry, the contract was signed in New Delhi under the Buy (Indian-Indigenously Designed, Developed and Manufactured) category. It was formalised in the presence of senior officials from the Ministry and BEL. The Mountain Radar systems have been indigenously designed and developed by the Electronics & Radar Development Establishment under the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), and will be manufactured by the BEL.

4 women, child killed in fire at Surat residential building

At least four women and a child were killed after a fire broke out in a three-storey residential building in Surat on Tuesday, the police said. According to officials, a large quantity of foam sheets used for packaging had been stored on the premises. Preliminary findings indicate that an electrical spark may have ignited the highly inflammable foam, which emitted dense and toxic smoke. Officials said the victims suffered severe suffocation and were shifted by first responders to a civil hospital in a critical condition, where they died. The deceased were identified as Shehnaz Begum Ansari (65), Husa Begam Ansari (18), Shabina Ansari (28), Parvin Abdul Ansari (19), and Subhan Ali Ansari (4).

Most parts of India to see more heatwave days: IMD

East, central and northwest India may experience above-normal temperatures, while North India is likely to see a cooler-than-normal summer; country likely to get 12% more rainfall in April

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

North India is likely to experience a cooler-than-normal summer this time, while other parts of the country may see more number of heatwave days, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Tuesday.

From April to June, above-normal maximum temperatures are expected over most parts of east and northeast India, as well as eastern parts of central India, and adjoining peninsular regions. Maximum temperatures are likely to be "normal to below normal" over the remaining parts.

There will likely be more than the usual number of heatwave days over parts of east, central and northwest India, and southeast peninsula during this period. Many parts of coastal Odisha, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Andhra Pradesh, and some regions of Gujarat, Maharashtra and Karnataka are likely to see heatwaves in April.

The IMD says 2004 and 2014 were years that saw relatively cooler summers over northwestern India. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

El Nino fears

The country will likely receive 12% more rain than usual in April.

In July, however, forecasts suggest the emergence of an El Nino, a 1+ degree Celsius warming of regions of the Central Pacific Ocean that frequently links to reduced rain in India.

Experts said it is still early to link cooler summers to diminished monsoon rainfall though it is a pattern that has held in the past. The IMD is expected to provide an initial forecast on the expected performance of monsoon 2026 on April 15. India experienced surplus monsoon in 2024 and 2025. Save for 2023, India has received 'normal' or excess rainfall in all years since 2020. With fertilizer output expected to be hit this year on account of the Iran-U.S. war, weak rainfall could impact kharif sowing. "Cooler than normal summer means less heating of the landmass, which typically acts as a natural pull for moisture and monsoon. This could affect the onset of the monsoon and its initial progress [over Kerala in June]," said Madhavan Rajeevan, climatologist and former Secretary, the Ministry of Earth Sciences.

"However a clearer picture could emerge only around end May. There is also a forecast for a 'super' El Nino. We shouldn't worry now but if these signals persist in May, the government should prioritise drought management."

Historical temperatures

At a press briefing, IMD Director-General M. Mohapatra said that while there were "textbook" relationships between landmass temperature and rainfall, the relationship was not simple and there were several meteorological factors that influenced the monsoon. IMD historical records suggest that 2004 and 2014 were years that saw relatively cooler summers over northwestern India followed by weak monsoon rainfall.

March this year has seen several rain episodes bringing 12% more rain than is usual for the month. There were eight western disturbances that brought rain to northern India as opposed to six.

SC wants practical SOP to combat human trafficking

Top court seeks a strategy to be implemented right at level of the local police station

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has called for framing a practical, time-sensitive, and uniform Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to combat human trafficking cases.

"The court is not interested in any hypothetical or academic formula, but rather a practical strategy/approach which can be implemented/put into place right away, at the local police station level under whose jurisdiction the incident occurs," a Bench headed by Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah observed in a recent order.

Running against time

The nine-page court order said time was of the "greatest importance" from the moment the police get a complaint of a missing person.

The guidelines must help in creating a procedural framework for the police to act on as soon as the complaint is received, it stated.

The court directed the Union Home Secretary, the Home Secretaries and the Directors-General of Police of the States and the Union Territories to hold a discussion with stakeholders who were specifically dealing with issues of human trafficking within their jurisdictions to come up with specific proposals/suggestions for the perusal of the top court.

The Bench scheduled the next hearing on April 21.

"The exercise initially shall be limited to the very basic issue of investigation not only being initiated but seriously pursued immediately upon a report received relating to any missing person, more so in the background that till the person is not finally located, the case shall be kept alive not just on paper, but actually on the ground also," the top court reiterated in the order.

Besides seeking the aid of senior advocate H.S. Phoolka, who had assisted the Delhi High Court in crafting an SOP for dealing with trafficking cases in the national capital, the top court constituted a committee of P.M. Nair, former Director-Genral, NDRF; Veerendra Kumar Mishra, Director, Home Ministry; and S.D. Sanjay, Additional Solicitor General.

The Hindu, SRMIST to host sessions on careers in public policy, international relations

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Two panel discussions on "Digital governance and technological advancement" and "Policy frameworks in times of geopolitical uncertainty" to be held in Chennai on April 2 will seek to shed light on future careers in public policy, governance, and international affairs.

Strategic dialogues

The event, "The future reimagined: discover, decide, define your career", is part of the Future Career Conversations series organised by the SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST) and *The Hindu*.

The event will be held at the Madras Management Association, Anna Salai, between 5.30 p.m. and 7.30 p.m.

The first session will explore how technology is transforming public administration and service delivery, and will include Atulya Mishra, State Information Commissioner, Tamil Nadu; Santhosh Babu, Managing Director, Kerala State IT Infrastructure Ltd; Murali Sundaram, Senior Technology Consultant; and P. Sree Sudha, Dean, SRM School of Law.

The session will be moderated by Kunal Shankar, Deputy Business Editor, *The Hindu*. The second session will focus on global challenges and their impact on policymaking. It will include Air Marshal M. Matheswaran (retd), former Deputy Chief, Integrated Defence Staff; Commodore R.S. Vasan (retd), Director-General, Chennai Centre for China Studies; A. Vinay Kumar, Pro Vice-Chancellor, SRMIST; and Nayanima Basu, independent journalist specialising in foreign policy and security. The session will be moderated by Stanly Johny, International Affairs Editor, *The Hindu*.

Those interested may scan the QR code to register for attending the event.

Sanand 'bridge' to Silicon Valley: PM on rise in semiconductor ecosystem

Abhinay Deshpande
AHMEDABAD

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday positioned Gujarat's Sanand as an emerging link in the global semiconductor network as he inaugurated a semiconductor assembly and test facility of Kaynes Semicon in Sanand, declaring that a "bridge" now connects the industrial town with Silicon Valley.

Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister described the current period as the "decade of India" and underscored the rapid expansion of the country's electronics sector. He projected that India's semiconductor market could exceed $100 billion by the end of the decade.

The plant, built at an estimated cost of ₹3,300 crore, will serve as a significant milestone under India's semiconductor mission.

Switching on: Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the inauguration of the Kaynes Semiconductor Plant in Ahmedabad on Tuesday. ANI

Global market

Stating that India is emerging as a reliable semiconductor supplier in the global market, Mr. Modi added that chips manufactured in Sanand will reach the United States and illuminate the world. "India's current global semiconductor market stands at ₹4.5 lakh crore, with a target of reaching ₹9 lakh crore by 2030," he said.

"As a result, the Semiconductor Mission was launched in India in 2021. This is not merely an industrial policy, but a declaration of India's confidence on the global stage. He added that today's New India is not just witnessing change but is moving forward to lead it," he said.

India's position

Referring to India's recent participation in the Pax Silica initiative, a U.S.-led coalition focused on securing supply chains for semiconductors, artificial intelligence and rare earth elements, Mr. Modi said such collaborations will enhance resilience in critical technology sectors.

'Techade'

Describing the current period as India's 'Techade', Mr. Modi noted that India is among the leading adopters of artificial intelligence and pointed to the success of Digital India and fintech as evidence of growing public trust in technology.

In reshuffle, Chanchal Kumar is new I&B Secretary

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Senior IAS officer Chanchal Kumar has been appointed Information and Broadcasting Secretary as part of a top-level bureaucratic reshuffle effected by the Centre on Tuesday.

Mr. Kumar, a 1992-batch IAS officer of the Bihar cadre, is currently Secretary, Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region.

Sanjay Lohiya, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Mines, has been appointed Special Secretary, Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance.

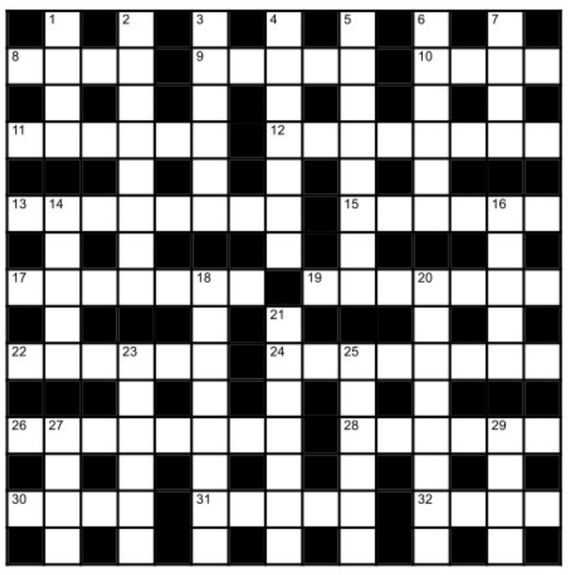
He will take over as Secretary of the Department of Financial Services, after the superannuation of senior officer Nagaraju Maddirala on May 31.

TH CROSSWORD + 14756

(set by Incognito)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at *https://thehindu.com/crosswords*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

8 Dress got from storage space after escapers left (4)
9 Silly ass protects military officer and sailors (5)
10 Present location in the region (4)
11 Drink with drunken pop in Middle Eastern city (6)
12 It helps doctor look at sound organ (8)
13 Utter, "Entire" (8)
15 Pong from 10 in southern church (6)
17 Type of cooking that might agitate actor Stephen (4,3)
19 Returned gold possessed by idiotic lass going around university regularly (2,5)
22 Lama leaving wriggling salamander is trapped (6)
24 Rob Morse, perhaps, to get a hat (8)
26 Interrogate leader of outlaws in botched up inquest (8)
28 One using a boat is a gambler (6)
30 Conditionally release cricketing equipment (4)
31 Central Asian nomad gets an area in China (5)
32 Challenge from Hyderabad area (4)

Down

1 Implement also before end of trial (4)
2 Philip Pirrip in barge wreck is a highland musician (8)
3 A horse runs on land near sea (6)
4 Fully complete everywhere (3,4)
5 Supports European husbands and wives (8)
6 Something to chew got from Pollachi clerk (6)
7 "Hold tightly," from girl with tear (4)
14 Frequently one travels around covering small distance (5)
16 Piece of furniture having cold head covering (5)
18 Right LED designed to give stop signal (3,5)
20 Peaceful times included in song sung to beloved (8)
21 Archaeological Survey of India followed by Xi on retirement? Silly! (7)
23 Sure limit may give effect (6)
25 After losing car, comparing wrongly and feeling dejected (6)
27 Mountain range seen in Tumkur album (4)
29 Lug first lady and lord (4)

SUDOKU

	9	8					5	
7		3			5	8		
	2		7					
				2		9		6
		7	3		6	5		
6		9		8				
					9		4	
		5	4			7		3
	7					6	8	

No.SS6837 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

6	2	3	7	8	9	1	5	4
9	7	5	2	1	4	8	6	3
1	4	8	5	3	6	9	2	7
3	6	9	8	7	5	2	4	1
2	8	1	4	6	3	5	7	9
7	5	4	9	2	1	6	3	8
8	9	6	3	5	7	4	1	2
4	1	7	6	9	2	3	8	5
5	3	2	1	4	8	7	9	6

FAITH

Question and answer

Madhurakavi Azhvar asked Nammazhvar a question, and the latter's reply was enough to indicate that Nammazhvar was his preceptor. Madhurakavi told Nammazhvar: "If something small were to be born in something that is dead, what will the small thing eat and where will it be?" Nammazhvar replied: "It will eat that and remain there." But what do the question and the answer mean?

The small thing indicated by Madhurakavi is the jivatma, said V.S. Karunakaracharian in a discourse. The human body is the one described as lifeless. When the jivatma inhabits a human body, what does it experience and where does it remain? Nammazhvar's reply means that the atma remains in the body and experiences material pleasures. Nammazhvar used the word '*kidakkum*' in his reply. He used this word, because it shows deep involvement in something. When we begin to enjoy material pleasures, we get immersed in them, and cannot imagine living without them. No other Tamil word could have conveyed this idea as strongly as the word '*kidakkum*.' Hence Nammazhvar used that word to convey to Madhurakavi Azhvar that worldly attractions tempt and trap us. An example illustrates this. A guru cursed his inattentive sishya to be born as a pig. He told the sishya that soon after he was born, other sishyas would kill him, ending his life as a pig soon. As soon as the sishya was born to a sow, the guru sent his pupils to kill the piglet. But the sishya born as a piglet said he didn't want to die. There were pleasures to be had as a piglet. He wanted to enjoy them! That is how the world takes hold of us. That is why Nammazhvar used a strong word to indicate the effect of worldly pulls.

INBRIEF

SEBI fines EliteCon ₹51.2 cr. for alleged insider trading

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) fined Elite Con International, a cigarette-maker, ₹51 crore and banned it from the securities market for allegedly inflating the price of the company's stock and dumping them on retail investors, gaining ₹51.2 crore, according to an order released on March 31. The interim order was passed against noticees Vipin Sharma, the company's promoter, Pawan Kumar Ray, a non-promoter and three others.

Mindspace buys Chennai office space for ₹2,541 crore

Mindspace Business Parks REIT, owner of quality Grade A office assets,has acquired 100% equity shareholding in Sycamore Properties Private Ltd. and Content Properties Private Ltd., comprising 2.6 million sq.ft. at Commerzone Pallikaranai, located on the Pallavaram-Thoraipakkam Road (PTR) in Chennai, for ₹2,541 crore. The board of the manager to Mindspace Business Parks REIT has approved the transaction and preferential issuance of up to ₹675 crore.

Corona buys Wokadine brand from Dr. Reddy's in India

Corona Remedies has acquired Wokadine brand from Dr. Reddy's Laboratories in India. The acquisition, effective March 30, marks the company's entry into the ₹648 crore Povidone Iodine market in India. Wokadine is ranked number two in the market and the brand holds strong potential for accelerated growth under its stewardship, Corona said on Monday. The company said the acquisition will be fully funded through internal accruals and cash.

IndiGo fiasco: DGCA head shunted out; airline names CEO

Move comes amid scrutiny of regulator's oversight with queries on how it allowed IndiGo to expand winter schedule sans checking pilot availability

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

Three months after widespread flight cancellations by IndiGo disrupted air travel across India, the Centre moved out the head of aviation safety regulator even as the airline named a new chief executive.

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet said Faiz Kidwai, Director General of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), will be shifted to the Department of Personnel and Training. He will be succeeded by Vir Vikram Yadav, Additional Secretary, Environment Ministry.

New vista: Willie Walsh previously served as CEO of British Airways and International Airlines Group. REUTERS FILE

The move comes amid scrutiny of the regulator's oversight with questions raised over how the DGCA allowed IndiGo to expand winter flight schedule without adequately assessing pilot availability.

On the same day, InterGlobe Aviation Ltd., IndiGo's parent, named Willie Walsh CEO. Mr. Walsh, Director General of the International Air Transport Association (IATA), is likely to take charge by August 3 after his IATA term ends.

LPG vessel arrives at Mumbai port

Snehal Mutha
MUMBAI

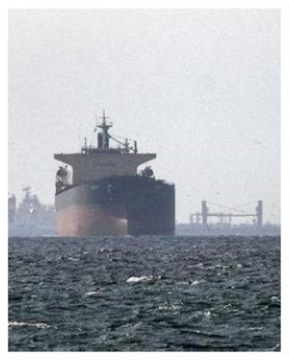
The Indian flagged LPG carrier, BW TYR vessel, arrived Mumbai port on Tuesday, crossing the Strait of Hormuz, as per a ship tracker website. It is among the two LPG carriers that departed from Dubai-Ras Al Khaima on Friday; the second carrier is BW ELM.

BW TYR is an LPG Tanker built in 2008, sailing under the flag of India.

The LPG carriers – BW TYR and BW ELM – carrying about 94,000 tonne, safely crossed Strait of Hormuz and moved towards Indian coast, as per an official statement.

According to the Marine Traffic website, the tanker marks the latest Indian-flagged vessel to transit the Strait, followed by four other LNG tankers, namely Shivalik, Nanda Devi, Pine Gas, and Jag Vasant.

BW Elm is expected to arrive in New Mangalore on April 1.



Cargo ships near the Strait of Hormuz. (For representational purpose only)

As of March 29, the Indian Government said there were 18 Indian-flagged vessels with 485 Indian seafarers in the Gulf.

"Shipping through the Strait has largely halted amid the conflict, with Iran permitting passage only to "non-hostile vessels" coordinating with its authorities," as per the statement.

(With inputs from PTI and Marine traffic website)

War can cut 1% point off India's FY27 GDP growth projection: EY

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

India's real GDP growth for the next fiscal could erode by around 1 percentage point, while retail inflation could rise by about 1.5 percentage points from their baseline estimates if the Middle East conflict persists through the next fiscal, an EY report said.

The EY Economy Watch report said several sectors, including employment-intensive sectors like textiles, paints, chemicals, fertilizers, cement and tires, could be directly impacted. Any reduction in employment or incomes in these sectors may further dampen aggregate demand. As a result, supply and demand conditions may be affected by global oil market disturbances.

It said the Indian economy, which imports nearly 90% of its crude oil requirements, is also highly dependent on imports of natural gas and fertilizers, and is particularly vulnerable to such external shocks, with the adverse effects likely to cascade across multiple sectors through strong forward and backward linkages with crude oil and energy.

The conflict significantly disrupted global crude oil and energy markets by affecting supply, storage, transportation and prices. Even if the conflict is resolved in the near term, some of the disruptions may take considerable time to normalise, it said.

'March India diesel export to SE Asia at 7-year high on war'

Reuters
SINGAPORE

India's diesel exports to Southeast Asia surged to the highest in more than seven years in March, shipping data showed, as traders pivoted supply to cover short positions and refiners cashed in on higher profits in Asia caused by the U.S.-Israeli war with Iran.

The surge in exports could boost spot sale margins for Indian refiners who have purchased large volumes of prompt Russian crude to replace Middle East supply disrupted by the war.

About 1 million metric tonne (7.45 million barrels) of diesel have been shipped on this trade route, according to data from analytics firm Kpler and three trade sources, with around half of the volumes bound for Singapore.

Around 90% of these volumes were shipped by Reliance Industries, Kpler data showed, operator of the world's largest refining complex.

Reliance did not immediately respond to a Reuters request for comment.

Supply pivots

Traders tapped India's diesel supply for Southeast Asia and Australia after the Middle East conflict disrupted crude supplies to Asia, leading refineries to cut output and countries including China to ban exports of refined products.

"Asian buyers that usually rely on Chinese and northeast Asia must seek alternative supply, with India's Reliance being one of the main candidates in the region," analysts from consultancy FGE NexAnt ECA said.

India is known as a swing supplier in global oil markets as it can sell its refined products either to Europe or Asia, whichever is more profitable.

These shipments will help to ease supply tightness going into April, traders said. Some analysts expect the trend to last in the near term despite the Indian government reinstating export taxes for diesel.

Sparta Commodities' analyst James Noel-Bes wick said its arbitrage calculations suggested that the trade flow can continue into August at least.

IHC to buy Sammaan stake for $1 billion

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

Sammaan Capital Ltd., formerly IndiaBulls Housing Finance Ltd, said West Asia's IHC, with a market cap of $232 billion, via affiliate, Avenir Investment RSC Ltd. will become the promoter of Sammaan Capital Ltd. by acquiring 41.5% stake via a preferential allotment of equity shares and warrants.

Sammaan Capital said it received an initial tranche of $5,652 crore ($600 million) towards the allotment of equity shares and warrants, with an additional ₹3,198 crore ($338 million) to be received within 18 months upon conversion of the warrants into fully paid equity shares.

Avenir will work on concluding the open offer within 30 days, which was announced at ₹139 per fully paid equity share of Sammaan Capital.

IHC, through Avenir, will hold 63.3% in Sammaan Capital.

Upon completion of the open and assuming full uptake in the open offer, IHC, through Avenir will hold 63.3% stake in Sammaan Capital.

"Sammaan Capital enters this new chapter from a position of structural strength, with full capacity and intent to grow," the company said.

HAL revenue rises to ₹32,250 cr. in FY26

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

According to HAL the order book remained healthy at about ₹2.54 lakh crore as on March 31, 2026

The Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL) recorded a revenue of ₹32,250 crore (provisional and unaudited) for the financial year ended March 31, 2026, as against the revenue of ₹30,981 crore in FY25.

The defence PSU said the achievement was made possible despite the challenges faced in deliveries of LCA Mk1A and HTT 40 due to supply chain issues arising from geopolitical and technical challenges.

However, deliveries of ALH, AL31-FP, RD-33 engines, and other products and services were accelerated, helping maintain the top line and healthy profitability, it said.

"During the past year, HAL strengthened order pipeline, expanded its manufacturing capability and diversified into the civil segment to support future growth," said D. K. Sunil, CMD, HAL.

HAL said order book remained healthy at about ₹2.54 lakh crore as on March 31 2026.

During the year, HAL paid an interim dividend of ₹35 per equity share of face value of ₹5 each for FY26, totalling ₹2,341 crore.

Further, a final dividend of ₹15 per equity share for FY25 totalling ₹1,003 crore was paid. The total cash outflow for payment of the above dividend during the year was ₹3,344 crore.

Government says 30 mineral blocks made operational in FY2025-26

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

In a first for India, the Ministry of Mines informed that 30 mineral blocks have been made operational in a single financial year viz. FY2025-26.

Essential to note, most of the blocks made operational are those of limestone followed by iron ore.

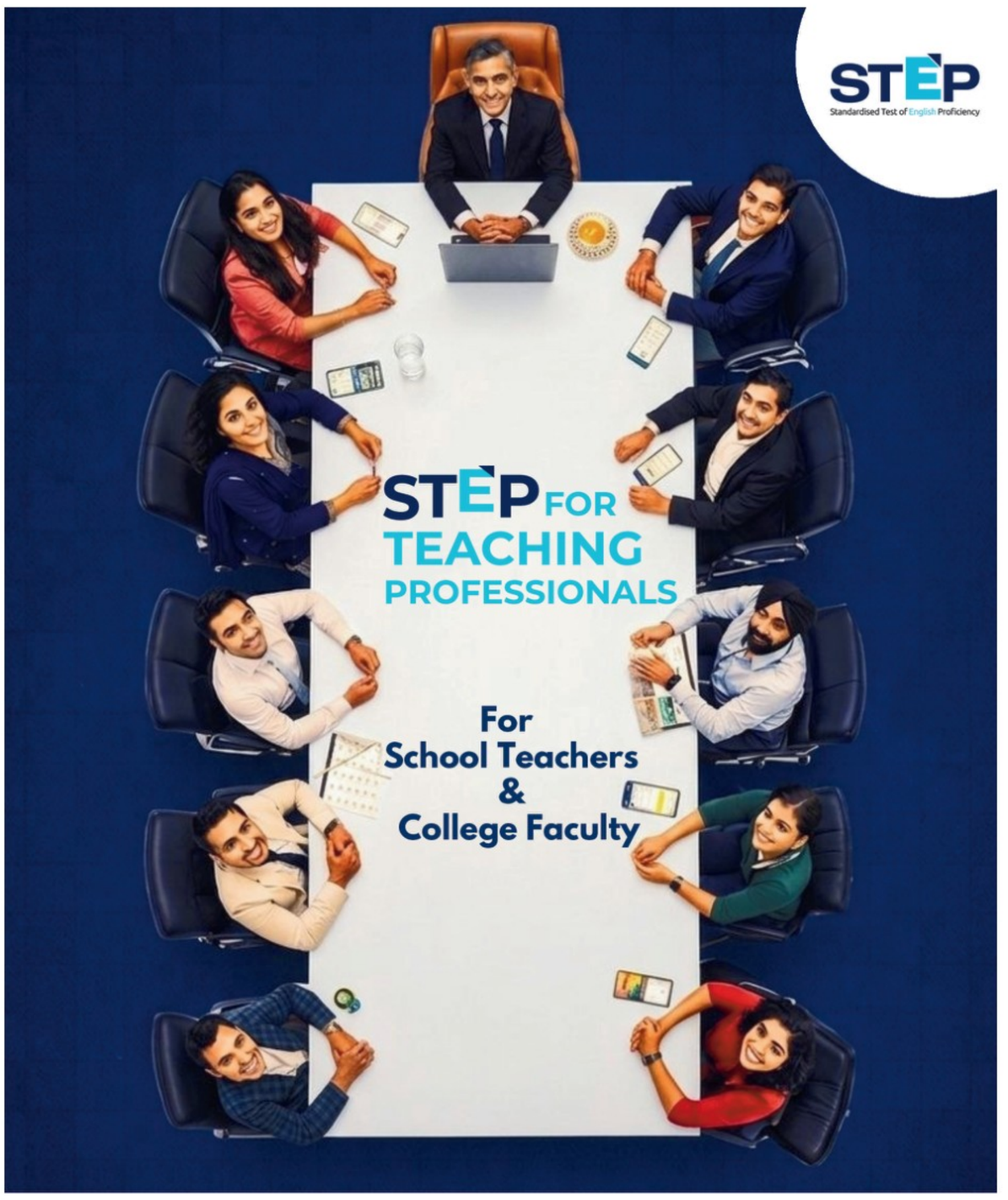
Majority of these standalone limestone blocks are located in Gujarat, that is, four blocks, followed by Madhya Pradesh with three blocks, Rajasthan with two, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh and Assam one block each.

Taking off: After limestone, most of the blocks are those of iron ore. (Picture for representational purpose only).

Iron ore blocks made operational originate in Goa (four blocks) whilst Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Karnataka house two blocks each. For example, Odisha has three mines where iron ore and manganese co-exist, while limestone co-exists with marl in two blocks, and with marl and bauxite in one such block– both in Gujarat.

The two minerals, other than the standalone mines, also exist alongside other minerals as marl and bauxite in other mines that have been made operational.

For example, Odisha has three mines where iron ore and manganese co-exist, while limestone co-exists with marl in two blocks, and with marl and bauxite in one such block– both in Gujarat. Overall, majority of the blocks made operational belong to Gujarat (8 blocks).



JERUSALEM

Israel military says four soldiers were killed in southern Lebanon

AFP

The Israeli military said on Tuesday four soldiers had been killed in combat in southern Lebanon where its forces are clashing with Hezbollah. A military statement named three soldiers from the same battalion who "fell during combat" and a separate statement said another soldier had died in the same incident. AFP

TEHRAN

U.S.-Israel strikes targeted major pharmaceutical company: Tehran

AFP

U.S.-Israeli air strikes on Tuesday hit Tofigh Daru Research & Engineering Company, one of the largest pharmaceutical companies in Iran which produces anaesthetic and cancer drugs, the Iranian government said. Iran has long faced chronic shortages of medicines, partly due to UN sanctions imposed over it. AFP

GENEVA

Over 2 lakh people fled Lebanon for Syria in March, says UNHCR

AFP

More than 2 lakh people have fled Lebanon for Syria since fighting resumed a month ago between Israeli forces and Lebanon's Hezbollah movement, the United Nations' refugee agency, UNHCR, said on Tuesday. "The vast majority — nearly 1.8 lakh — are Syrians, including refugees who had fled Syria in the past," it added. AFP

NAYPYIDAW

Min Aung Hlaing, Myanmar junta chief, elected as Vice-President

AFP

Myanmar's junta chief, Min Aung Hlaing, was elected Vice-President by the lower house on Tuesday, parliamentary officials said. Parliament elects three Vice-Presidents, one of whom is then chosen as President. The vote to decide which of the three will be elevated to the presidency is expected later this week. AFP

Iran has 'necessary will' to end war, but seeking guarantees: President

Iran's five-point counterproposal to 15-point U.S. plan calls for ending the 'aggression'; attack on Isfahan, which hosts nuclear enrichment site, created a massive fireball; strike on oil tanker caused a fire, which officials say 'did not result in an oil spill'

Agence France-Presse
Associated Press
TEHRAN/DUBAI

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Tuesday his country had the "necessary will" to end the ongoing war with Israel and the United States, but was seeking guarantees that the conflict would not be repeated. "We possess the necessary will to end this conflict, provided that essential conditions are met – especially the guarantees required to prevent repetition of the aggression," Mr. Pezeshkian said in a phone conversation with the President of the European Council, according to a statement from his office, reiterating a key demand of Tehran's.

Caught in crosshairs: Damage to the Kuwait-flagged *Al-Salmi* oil tanker, following a reported Iranian strike on Tuesday. REUTERS

Responding to a 15-point U.S. plan for ending the war last week, Iran issued a five-point counterproposal that also called for ending the "aggression" and establishing a mechanism guaranteeing that neither Israel nor the United States would return to war, Iranian media reported.

"The solution to normalising the situation is the cessation of their aggressive attacks," Mr. Pezeshkian said on Tuesday.

U.S. strikes hit a city on Tuesday that is home to one of Iran's main nuclear sites, sending a massive fireball into the sky, and Tehran attacked a fully loaded Kuwaiti oil tanker in the Persian Gulf.

An Iranian drone hit a Kuwaiti oil tanker in waters off the United Arab Emirates city of Dubai, sparking a blaze that was later put out, the Dubai Media Office said. Authorities said there was no oil spill.

U.S.-Israeli strikes also killed four persons, wounded 26 and damaged the Grand Husseiniya, a Shia Muslim mosque in northwest Iranian city of Zanjan. Local media added that "parts of dome and minarets were damaged".

China, Pak. outline 5-point plan to end West Asia war

Agence France-Presse
BEIJING

China and Pakistan called on Tuesday for an immediate end to the war in the West Asia, and for peace talks as soon as possible, as they agreed to boost their cooperation on Iran.

The two countries outlined a joint initiative "for restoring peace and stability in the Gulf and Middle East region", after a visit from senior Pakistani officials to Beijing.

Both countries have sought to mediate in the West Asia to prevent the conflict from escalating, with Islamabad saying it is ready to host "meaningful talks" between the United States and Iran.

Wang Yi

Pakistani Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar met his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi and agreed to "strengthen strategic communication and coordination on the Iran situation and ... make new efforts towards advocating for peace", Beijing said.

Mr. Dar's Ministry later said the two sides had agreed on a five-point plan, starting with the "immediate cessation of hostilities" and the "start of peace talks as soon as possible".

On talks, which the United States claims are ongoing but Iran denies, the governments said dialogue and diplomacy were "the only viable option to resolve conflicts".

"China and Pakistan support the relevant parties in initiating talks, with all parties committing to peaceful resolution of disputes, and refraining from the use or the threat of use of force during peace talks," it added.

The plan also calls for an end to attacks on civilians and non-military targets.

'We have no kings,' chant protesters as anti-Trump movement expands

Anisha Dutta
NEW YORK

A slogan touted as a warning against rising authoritarianism under U.S. President Donald Trump's administration has, over the past year, grown into one of the largest protest movements in recent American history with millions across the the country and in cities abroad, taking to the streets on March 28 under the banner: "No Kings."

"IN AMERICA, WE HAVE NO KINGS," declares the website of the 'No Kings' movement, a loose but rapidly expanding coalition opposing President Donald Trump, in a message that has now become a rallying cry. It goes on to accuse the administration of unleashing "masked secret police", pursuing "an illegal, catastrophic war putting us in danger and driving up our costs", and undermining civil liberties. "Power belongs to the people – not to wannabe kings or their billionaire cronies." White House spokesperson Abigail Jackson characterised them as the product of "leftist funding networks" with little real public support. The "only people who care about these Trump Derangement Therapy Sessions are the reporters who are paid to cover them," Ms. Jackson said in a statement.

According to the organisers, Saturday's demonstrations, the third nationwide mobilisation since Mr. Trump's re-election in January 2025, were the largest yet with an estimated eight million people participating in nearly every major U.S. city, alongside solidarity protests in Paris, London, Lisbon and Rome among other cities. The turnout surpassed earlier waves in June and October last year, which drew roughly five million and seven million participants, respectively, according to the organisers.

Massive outrage: Demonstrators congregating at the State Capitol during a 'No Kings' protest in St. Paul, Minnesota. REUTERS

Grassroots movement

'No Kings' is a coalition-driven protest movement primarily driven by progressive, anti-authoritarian organisations, including Indivisible, 50501, MoveOn, Public Citizen, the American Civil Liberties Union, and the National Action Network. The groups also bring in a broad range of partner organisations, labor unions, legal organisations such as the American Civil Liberties Union, and advocacy groups such as the Movement for Black Lives.

Their stated aim, according to organisers, is to "safeguard democracy from an authoritarian" through "organised, nonviolent, insistent people power". That message appears to be resonating across a wide spectrum of Americans. While immigration enforcement has emerged as a central flashpoint, the protests reflect a convergence of grievances: the administration's military posture abroad, especially its war in Iran; rising living costs; alleged voter suppression; and the rollback of civil rights protections.

The symbolic centre of Saturday's protests was the Twin Cities region – Minneapolis and St. Paul – where tensions over immigration enforcement have been particularly acute after residents stood up to the surge of federal immigration agents the Trump administration sent into the region earlier this year and after the death of two residents, Renee Good and Alex Pretti, who were killed while observing activities by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

The flagship rally drew tens of thousands to the State Capitol in St. Paul. Senator Bernie Sanders addressed the crowd alongside actor-activist Jane Fonda and musicians Joan Baez and Maggie Rogers. Later, Bruce Springsteen performed a song titled 'Streets of Minneapolis', sharply critical of immigration enforcement policies. A pre-recorded message from actor Robert De Niro was also played at the rally.

The actor said he wakes up "depressed" by the political climate but felt hopeful seeing millions mobilise. He also praised Minnesotans for "running ICE out of town" – a claim that organisers say reflects the growing resistance to federal enforcement efforts. Protesters held up effigies of Mr. Trump, Vice President J.D. Vance and other officials in the administration, calling for their ousting and arrest.

In Washington, hundreds marched past the Lincoln Memorial and into the National Mall, holding signs that read "Put down the crown, clown" and "Regime change begins at home". Demonstrators rang bells, played drums and chanted "No kings."

In New York City, thousands packed Times Square and marched through Midtown Manhattan, forcing police to shut down major streets.

Demonstrators carried placards reading "No kings, no crowns" and "Democracy, not dynasty," while chanting slogans. The scale of turnout likely exceeded October's protest, when more than 100,000 people gathered across the city's five boroughs.

Donna Lieberman, executive director of the New York Civil Liberties Union, said during a news conference that Mr. Trump and his supporters want people to be afraid to protest. "They want us to be afraid that there's nothing we can do to stop them," she said. "But you know what? They are wrong – dead wrong."

Critics say the administration's actions have tested constitutional norms and intensified fears of executive overreach. The "No Kings" movement has positioned itself not merely as a protest campaign but also as a sustained resistance effort.

The organisers announced a "mass call" on March 31 with leaders and fellow local activists to celebrate the historic mobilisation and dig into what comes next.

(Anisha Dutta is a journalist based in New York)

GUJARAT INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
(A Govt of Gujarat Undertaking)
O/o the Superintending Engineer (SG)
Plot No. C5/101, Char Rasta, GIDC, Vapi - 396 195.

E-TENDER NOTICE No. 20 of 2025-2026

The tender for the work having cost of Rs. 660.36 crore is invited by office of the Superintending Engineer (SG), G.I.D.C., Vapi under jurisdiction of the Executive Engineer, GIDC, Vapi through Tender for online works. The tender for Online work can be upload - download on website **www.nprocure.com**. The detailed tender notice can be seen in GIDC office notice board / GIDC website **www.gidc.gujarat.gov.in**. Right to reject the tender without assigning any reasons thereof are reserved by G.I.D.C., which will be binding to all bidders. Please stay touring web site **www.nprocure.com** for any corrigendum/ addendum / modification till last date of receipt.

SD/-
Superintending Engineer (SG)
G.I.D.C., Vapi.

No. INF/Valsad/ 1041/26

BENGALURU SOUTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Jayanagara Division,
No.44, 18th Main road, 39th Cross, Jayanagar
4th T block, Bengaluru-560041

No: EE/BSCC/JN/TEND/06/2025-26 Date: 27-03-2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System)

(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only)
The Executive Engineer, Jayanagara Division, BSCC, invites tenders on behalf the Commissioner, BSCC, Bengaluru from eligible contractors registered in Greater Bengaluru Authority (Bengaluru South City Corporation) Or equivalent registration with KPWD/CPWD/Railways/MES or any State Government Organizations for the constructions of work detailed in the table below.

Sl No.	Name of the work
1.	Improvements to roads, drains, Culverts in Kaveramma Temple, 2nd cross road, Byrasandra and surrounding area in **Ward No. 182** Byrasandra. **Estimate Cost: ₹. 200.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹. 3,00,000/-**
2.	Comprehensive development of roads, drains and other developmental works JP Nagara 1st Phase ITI Layout, Shakambarinagara and Surrounding area in **Ward No.186** Shakambarinagara Ward. **Estimate Cost: ₹. 210.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹. 3,15,000/-**

Calendar of Events : (1) Tender must be submitted online through KPP portal on or before **10-04-2026, 4:00** pm. (2) Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on office of the Chief Engineer, Jayanagar Zone (Zone-1), Bengaluru South City Corportion, 9th Main, 9th Cross, Jayanagar 2nd Block, Bengaluru-560011 on **07-04-2026** at **3:00** pm. (3) Technical Bids will be Opened on **13-04-2026** by **4:05** pm. (4) Financial bids will be Opened on **15-04-2026** by **4:05** pm.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer, Jayanagara Division
Bengaluru South City Corporation

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The Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development Corporation Limited
Door No.294/1D, 100 feet Road (Tadigadapa to Enikepadu Road), Kanuru, Vijayawada-521137, Andhra Pradesh, India
Tel: +91-866-2429999, Fax: +91-866-2429977 Email: contracts-ho@apmdc.in

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE
Tender No:APMDC/HO/P&C/Science Lab Equipment-APMDC -DAV Model School at Suliyari/2025-26/I, Dt: 01.04.2026

APMDC invites Short Term E-tender from reputed Agencies for **"Supply of Laboratory Setup Accessories to APMDC - DAV Model School at Suliyari Coal Project, Madhya Pradesh"**. For more information on the eligibility criteria, tender fees, timelines and other details, please visit e-procurement website of GoAP **www.tender.apeprocurement.gov.in)** or APMDC website **(www.apmdc.ap.gov.in)**. The Tender document is available for downloading from **01.04.2026** and the last date for bid submission is **15.04.2026** by **17:00** Hrs.

Place: Vijayawada
Date : 01.04.2026
Sd/-
Managing Director
The A.P. Mineral Development Corporation Limited
DIPR 4946PP/CL, Dt.31/03/2026

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION BHARATPUR
Ref :MCB/Technical /2025-26/25728 Date: 25.03.2026

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS –42/2025-26

Nagar Nigam Bharatpur invites Single-stage Two Part (envelope) Online unconditional open competitive bids through www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in from eligible bidders Nagar Nigam Bharatpur and "A" & "AA" Class in any Central/state/ Government/semi Government organization/Contractors for the work. The document can be seen and downloaded from the website **http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in** and **www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in**. Bids are to be submitted online in electronic format as per schedule given below:

Number of Work	01 Work
Name of Work	Construction of Open and Box Drain from Vimal Kunj Tiraha to Pushpvatiya Main Drain Near Pani Ki Tanki via Chandwari Nagla
Cost of Work	439.60 Lacs.
Bid Download start date and Time from	From 27.03.2026, at 10.00 AM to
Website http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in	21.04.2026 upto 06.00 PM
Bid Upload end date and time on Website http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in	21.04.2026 Upto 06.00 PM
Pre-bid Meeting Date and Time	06.04.2026 at 11.00 AM Venue:- The Municipal Corporation Bharatpur
Submission of Document Physically/ Tender Cost/RISL Fee UTR Slip	22.04.2026 upto 02.00 PM
Technical Bid Opening Date and Time	22.04.2026 at 3.00 PM
Financial Bid Opening Date and Time	Will be intimated later to technically responsive bidders.

UBN is: DLB2526WSOB40361
Raj.Samwad/C/25/23583
Commissioner

BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Mahalakshmipuram Division, 12th Main, 11th Cross,
West of Chord Road, BWCC, Bengaluru.

No: EE/MLP/TEND/E-PROC/18/2025-26 Date: 31-03-2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)

Tenders on item rate basis are invited by the Executive Engineer, Mahalakshmipuram Division, BWCC, Bengaluru for the work detailed below from the registered Contractors of BWCC or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES / BBMP or any State Government Organizations.
(Standard Tender Document - KW-1, KW-2 KW-3 & KW-4)

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Improvements to Roads and Drains at Vivekananda Park Surrounding Area and Ward Limits Roads in Nagapura Ward No. 49. **(Call-2) - Approximated Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 205.92, EMD Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 3.09**

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 02-04-2026 after 16.30 Hours. 2)** Last Date for Receipt of Queries: **06-04-2026 upto 15.00 Hours. 3)** Pre Bid Meeting will be held on **06-04-2026 at 15.30 Hours. 4)** Last Date for Uploading the Filled Proposals is **13-04-2026 upto 16.00 Hours. 5)** Date of Opening of Technical Proposals is **15-04-2026 after 11.00 Hours through KPP Portal.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Mahalakshmipuram Division, BWCC.

A BG-BGE

HIGH CEILING

Suryavanshi should be fast-tracked like Tendulkar, says Kumble

RITU RAJ KONWAR

Anil Kumble batted for Vaibhav Suryavanshi to be fast-tracked into India's senior team. The Rajasthan Royals opener turned 15 last week, making him eligible to represent India under ICC rules. "Yes, absolutely. If a player shows this level of consistency, he should be fast-tracked, just like Sachin Tendulkar," Kumble told *JioHotstar.*

PARAG'S TAKE

'If we had lost, the narrative would have been that I'm a bad captain'

RITU RAJ KONWAR

Cricket is very result-oriented. If I had done the same things today and we had lost, the narrative would have been that I'm a bad captain. If we end up on the winning side, it always looks prettier. But if it doesn't come off and the batter hits a few boundaries, I'll be sitting here like a dumb duck — Royals captain Riyan Parag.

TEAM GAME

'Pant has got the best people he could ever have around him'

R.V. MOORTHY

Rishabh Pant, at his very best, is smiling, competitive, throwing punches, and aggressive. We saw the last game last year. He's happy and batting well. He has got the best people he could ever have around him to bring the very best out of him — Justin Langer on Pant dealing with Indian team selection pressure.

LANGERSPEAK

'Every time I've coached a side, there has been pressure on me'

R.V. MOORTHY

I have had pressure on me for 30 years. Every time I batted, there was pressure on me. Every time I have coached a side, there has been pressure on me. I love pressure, and there should be pressure. I am the head coach... I just do what I have done for 30 years, and I promise you, in 30 years, it's been successful — Justin Langer.

Cool Connolly takes Kings across the line against plucky Titans

The southpaw's unbeaten 44-ball 72 ensures PBKS begins its campaign with a three-wicket win at home; the No. 3 batter anchors the chase even as the host slips from 83 for one to 118 for six; Chahal and Vyshak restrict the GT line-up to 162

IPL-19

S. Shrivathsan
NEW CHANDIGARH

New IPL season. New Chandigarh. And a new kid on the block.

Cooper Connolly announced himself on the IPL stage on the very first attempt, regaling the home crowd with a belligerent, unbeaten 72 (44b, 5x4, 5x6) at the Maharaja Yadavindra Singh Stadium here on Tuesday.

The young Australian's debut heroics, coupled with a fine bowling show, led by leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal (two for 28), propelled Punjab Kings to a nervy three-wicket triumph over Gujarat Titans.

Pursuing 163 to get off the mark in the 19th edition, PBKS appeared to be coasting to the target when Connolly and Prabhsimran Singh (37, 24b, 1x4, 4x6) combined for a 76-run second-wicket alliance. But GT raised hopes of an improbable fightback with a flurry of wickets (83 for one to 118 for six), including four in the blink of an eye.

Connolly, however, had the final say as he prevented the Shreyas Iyer-led side from committing harakiri – five balls were left in the bank when the 22-year-old completed the chase in style with a boundary off Washington Sundar.

The southpaw went after some of the best in the business, with four of his five maximums coming against Kagiso Rabada (two) and Rashid Khan (two).

Earlier, veteran Chahal operated as though he had never been away from elite cricket. Facing a master craftsman who last played at the top level in November 2025, the GT batters, including victims Shubman Gill and Jos Buttler, were trapped in his web.

Stellar show: Connolly made his IPL debut extra special. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Besides Chahal, pacers Marco Jansen (one for 20) and V. Vyshak (three for 34) did their bit in the first essay as Titans meandered to 162 for six after being asked to bat.

Chahal, introduced by Shreyas in the eighth over, bamboozled the opposition with his bag of tricks.

One such act led to the removal of Gill – the GT captain found Connolly at deep-midwicket after being undone by a change of pace.

While Jansen provided the opening for the host and showed his class at different periods, Vyshak vindicated the think-tank's decision to play him over left-arm spinner Harpreet Brar.

New or old did not matter to PBKS. All that mattered was a win.

SCOREBOARD

GUJARAT TITANS
B. Sai Sudharsan c Shreyas b Jansen 13 *(11b, 2x4)*, Shubman Gill c Connolly b Chahal 39 *(27b, 6x4)*, Jos Buttler c Bartlett b Chahal 38 *(33b, 3x4, 2x6)*, Glenn Phillips c Jansen b Vyshak 25 *(17b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Washington Sundar c Arshdeep b Vyshak 18 *(16b, 2x4)*, Shahrukh Khan c Arshdeep b Vyshak 4 *(6b)*, Rahul Tewatia (not out) 11 *(10b, 1x4)*, Rashid Khan (not out) 0 *(1b)*; Extras (lb-2, nb-1, w-11): 14; Total (for six wkts. in 20 overs): 162.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-37 (Sai Sudharsan, 3.4 overs), 2-83 (Gill, 9.3), 3-119 (Phillips, 13.6), 4-129 (Buttler, 15.4), 5-144 (Washington, 18.1), 6-150 (Shahrukh, 18.6).

KINGS BOWLING
Arshdeep 4-0-42-0, Bartlett 4-0-36-0, Jansen 4-0-20-1, Vyshak 4-0-34-3, Chahal 4-0-28-2.

PUNJAB KINGS
Priyansh Arya **(Impact Player for Chahal)** c Ashok b Rabada 7 *(8b, 1x6)*, Prabhsimran Singh c Prasidh b Rashid 37 *(24b, 1x4, 4x6)*, Cooper Connolly (not out) 72 *(44b, 5x4, 5x6)*, Shreyas Iyer c Washington b Prasidh 18 *(11b, 2x6)*, Nehal Wadhera c Gill b Washington 3 *(6b)*, Shashank Singh c Buttler b Prasidh 4 *(5b)*, Marcus Stoinis c Rashid b Prasidh 0 *(2b)*, Marco Jansen c Gill b Ashok 9 *(10b, 1x6)*, Xavier Bartlett (not out) 11 *(5b, 1x6)*; Extras (w-4): 4; Total (for seven wkts. in 19.1 overs): 165.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-7 (Priyansh, 1.2), 2-83 (Prabhsimran, 9.3), 3-110 (Shreyas, 12.1), 4-113 (Wadhera, 13.1), 5-118 (Shashank, 14.2), 6-118 (Stoinis, 14.4), 7-144 (Jansen, 17.4).

TITANS BOWLING
Siraj 2-0-15-0, Rabada 3-0-34-1, Ashok 3-0-31-1, Rashid 4-0-29-1, Washington 3.1-0-27-1, Prasidh **(Impact Player for Shahrukh)** 4-0-29-3.

Toss: Kings; **PoM:** Connolly.
PBKS won by three wickets with five balls to spare.

Next assignment

PBKS: April 3 vs. CSK Chennai, 7.30 p.m.

GT: April 4 vs. RR Ahmedabad, 7.30 p.m.

Giant-killer: PBKS tightened the screws once Chahal broke the back of the GT innings by sending back Gill and Buttler. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Up and running: Capitals will hope for a solid start to their campaign. R.V. MOORTHY

Super Giants and Capitals begin pursuit of elusive title

Dhruva Prasad
LUCKNOW

The buzz around the rebranded Lucknow Super Giants team is high ahead of the new Indian Premier League season. The Shaheed Path highway here, which leads into the city from the airport, is dotted with flags and cutouts of the host side's players on the eve of their campaign opener against Delhi Capitals at the Ekana Cricket Ground on Wednesday.

Last year's dark blue and orange have made way for navy blue and red as the Super Giants hope that a change in jersey colours, along with a new logo, will help them turn over a new leaf.

However, with a largely intact batting core and an injury-prone seam attack, helmed by the out-of-favour veteran Mohammed Shami, will it be a case of "the more things change, the more they stay the same?"

Skipper Rishabh Pant, who has been sidelined from India's white-ball teams, will have a point to prove. He capped off his underwhelming IPL season last year with a scintillating unbeaten 118 at No. 3, a position he slotted in at only once before in the campaign.

The maverick wicket-keeper-batter's spot in a power-packed top four, comprising Mitchell Marsh, Aiden Markram and Nicholas Pooran, will be crucial.

Capitals, Pant's former team, don't enjoy the same abundance at the top of the batting tree. They tried seven different opening combinations last year and ended the season with the lowest first-wicket average (21.78).

The addition of Sri Lanka opener Pathum Nissanka, along with K.L. Rahul, could address that concern. On the bowling front, Mitchell Starc's absence could be ridden out by Jammu and Kashmir pace sensation Auqib Nabi.

LSG and DC fell short of a playoff berth last year despite promising starts to their campaigns.

They will hope history doesn't repeat as they begin another pursuit of a maiden title.

Today's match

LSG vs DC

Lucknow, 7.30 p.m.

HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 7
LSG 3 | DC 4

PREVIOUS MEETING
DC won by eight wickets, 2025

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 & JIOHOTSTAR

> They [pacers Mayank and Naman] are both fit and are very exciting prospects. The beautiful thing that we've got for this tournament is that we have got this pool of fast bowlers who are fit to get selected
>
> **LANGER**

> Where do you bat Pant? Where do you bat Pooran? Where do you bat Markram and Marsh? They are all adaptable cricketers
>
> **LANGER**

We executed the plans really well: Parag

Tarun Shastry
GUWAHATI

It was a result shaped by contrasting approaches in the clash between Rajasthan Royals and Chennai Super Kings, with Riyan Parag and Mike Hussey offering candid reflections after the match. While Parag spoke from the perspective of a captain whose plans clicked on the night, Hussey was more introspective, pointing to early setbacks that left CSK playing catch-up. "My team executed the plans really well. The conditions suited us, and I think I did a decent job. Hopefully, we can repeat this in the next match if similar conditions are there," said Parag, who also stressed the importance of the toss after the eight-wicket win to open the IPL 2026 campaign. "There was quite a bit of moisture early on, which made a difference. The pitch changed as the game progressed, so yes, the toss did play an important role."

Hussey, meanwhile, acknowledged that his side fell short of its standards.

"Losing those early wickets put us under pressure, and we just couldn't get a partnership going. But we know we're a lot better than what we showed today. We'll leave this performance here and move on."

Backing his players, he added, "I don't want our batters to have clouded thoughts. I'd prefer them to come in with a clear attitude, assess the conditions quickly and then back themselves. If it comes off, great. If it doesn't, that's sometimes cricket."

Near-perfect game: The early inroads made by Archer and Burger ensured the Royals had a head-start. RITU RAJ KONWAR

Sindarov gets the better of Pragg, moves into joint lead

CANDIDATES CHESS

Sports Bureau

After winning the Chess World Cup in Goa last November, Javokhir Sindarov had spoken of how R. Praggnanandhaa had spoiled some of his tournaments when they played in the age-group tournaments. The two 20-year-olds are now contenders at the Candidates tournament Pegeia, Cyprus, and on Tuesday, it was the Uzbek who had the last laugh.

Sindarov scored a crucial win against the Chennai Grandmaster in the third round and moved into the joint lead along with American Fabiano Caruana. It was indeed a setback for Praggnanandhaa.

Playing from the white side of a Queen's Gambit Declined, he was doomed after blundering with successive moves. He thus remains on 1.5 points, one behind the leading pair, but there is plenty of time for him to come back, as 11 rounds still remain.

Third straight draw

In the women's section, Praggnanandhaa's elder sister R. Vaishali posted her third draw on the trot. Divya Deshmukh also drew, but not before surviving several anxious moments against Russia's Aleksandra Goryachkina. Bibisara Assaubayeva of Kazakhstan and Russia's Kateryna Lagno moved into joint lead following their wins in the third round.

The results (third round):
Matthias Bluebaum (Ger) 1.5 drew with Andrey Esipenko (Rus) 1; R. Praggnanandhaa 1.5 lost to Javokhir Sindarov (Uzb) 2.5; Fabiano Caruana (USA) 2.5 bt Wei Yi (Chn) 1; Hikaru Nakamura (USA) 1 drew with Anish Giri (Ned) 1.

Women: R. Vaishali 1.5 drew with Anna Muzychuk (Ukr) 1.5; Aleksandra Goryachkina (Rus) 1.5 drew with Divya Deshmukh 1.5; Zhu Jiner (Chn) 1 lost to Bibisara Assaubayeva (Kaz) 2; Tan Zhongyi (Chn) 1 lost to Kateryna Lagno (Rus) 2.

INBRIEF

Advani clinches maiden National 9-ball pool crown

Pankaj Advani added another feather to his cap by winning his maiden National 9-ball pool title in Ludhiana on Tuesday. In the final, the PSPB star, who has 28 World titles in billiards and snooker, outplayed Nitin Sharma of Chandigarh 11-6 in the race-to-11 affair. Advani's compatriot S. Shrikrishna beat Karnataka's Kushal Chandrashekar 7-2 in the third place playoff.

Priya advances to 60kg quarterfinals

Priya won her opening bout to advance to the women's 60kg quarterfinals, while Jadumani Singh made an early exit in the men's 55kg category at the Asian boxing championships in Ulaanbaatar on Tuesday. Priya's well-controlled performance helped her beat Kazakhstan's Rimma Volossenko 5-0 and set up a last-eight clash with second-seeded two-time World championships medallist Chengyu Yang of China. Jadumani, a World Boxing Cup Finals (WBCF) silver medallist in 50kg, lost 2-3 to third-seeded Japanese Rui Yamaguchi, a WBCF bronze medallist in 55kg.

ASF honour for Abhay, Anahat and Indian boys team

India's Abhay Singh has been declared outstanding Men's Player of the Year 2025 by the Asian Squash Federation (ASF), while rising teenage sensation Anahat Singh was selected for the top honours in the junior girls' section. The Indian boys team, which clinched bronze at the 2025 World Junior Team Championships in Egypt, was named for the men's team award, according to the awardees list released by ASF on Tuesday. The Indian players featured on the ASF annual awards list earlier was in 2022 when Saurav Ghosal and Joshna Chinappa bagged the men's and women's players' honours.

Dhyanchand steamrollers Major Dhyanchand

Dhyanchand HC, Bangalore beat Major Dhyanchand HC, Dharwad 8-1 in the KSHA B-division hockey league championship in Bengaluru on Tuesday.

K.R. Pura squeaks past Byatarayanapura

K.R. Pura edged out Byatarayanapura 1-0 in the KSFA-Vaishnavi Chief Minister Cup football tournament in Bengaluru on Tuesday. In the day's other match, Jayanagar drew 2-2 with Yelahanka.

Anshul stars for Viveks SC in State junior basketball

Anshul starred with 32 points as Viveks SC beat Mysore District-A 72-50 in a boys' super league match in the State junior basketball championship in Bengaluru on Tuesday. In a girls' category game, DYES Vidyanagar, powered by Deepika's 24 points, pipped Mounts Club 53-50. For Mounts, Nidhi Umesh top-scored with 34 points.

Mysore Race Club's summer season to begin from May 13

The Mysore Race Club will start the Summer Season on May 13, 2026 (Wednesday), with 13 days of races and conclude on Wednesday (August 5, 2026).

Racing dates: May: 13, 20, 27; June: 3, 10, 17, 24; July: 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; August: 5.

LIVE TELECAST

IFL: Sony Sports Ten 5 & FanCode, 4 & 6.30 p.m.

IPL: Star Sports 1 & JioHotstar, 7.30 p.m.

Blue Tigers delight the faithful with a great win

Australian import Williams marks his India debut with a strike in the fourth minute; Akash also finds the mark as Jamil's men finish their Group C campaign on a fine, promising note

ASIAN CUP QUALIFIER

P.K. Ajith Kumar
KOCHI

On a high: Williams is cock-a-hoop after giving the host an early lead. THULASI KAKKAT

It all looked a bit unreal.

Four minutes into the match, two perfect passes met a perfect finish. A naturalised citizen from Australia, playing his first game for India, scored. An excellent crowd erupted in joy.

It was the brightest moment yet in a season of gloom for Indian football.

A season that didn't even seem to take off with all the uncertainty regarding the Indian Super League.

But that goal from Ryan Williams brought joy. And there was finally a win for India in the AFC Asian Cup qualifiers, as it beat Hong Kong China 2-1 at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium on Tuesday night.

Coach Khalid Jamil must indeed be a relieved man after India finished its campaign in Group C on such a fine, promising note.

Williams showed how the decision to use eligible foreign-grown talents could help Indian football.

The 32-year-old from Perth had to give up his Australian passport to play for India.

He didn't take long to make his mark in the blue jersey. And he did that in style, too.

It all began with a superb through ball from own half by Abhishek Singh Tekcham, who had Manvir Singh cutting into the box.

Williams smartly put the ball past the Hong Kong goalkeeper Pong Cheuk Hei. India continued to play with pace and purpose.

Difficult angle

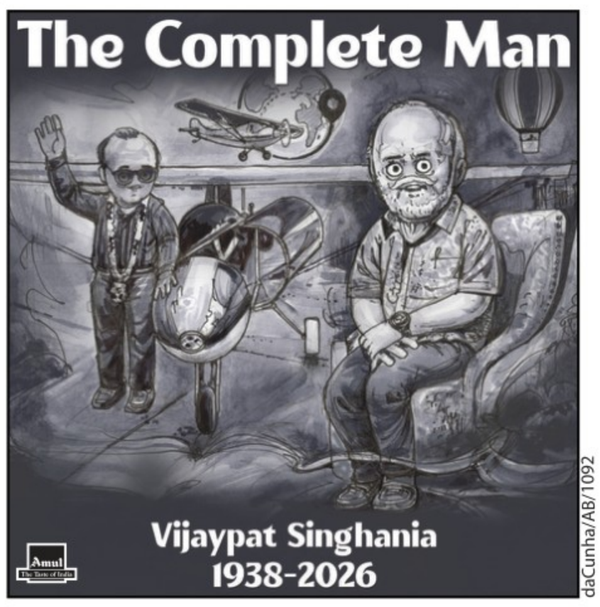
Five minutes after the interval, Akash Mishra doubled the joy for the noisy crowd, finding the target from a difficult angle off a powerful throw-in into the box by Rahul Bheke.

Hong Kong reduced the margin through Everton Camargo, who was able to dupe the usually tight Indian defence.

But, the home side, cheered on by some 22,000 supporters, ensured this was a night to remember.

The result:

India 2 (Ryan Williams 4, Akash Mishra 50) bt Hong Kong China 1 (Everton Camargo 65).



Players have to learn to balance life and cricket, says Palani Amarnath

C. Shyam Sundar
CHENNAI

Palani Amarnath.
FILE PHOTO: K. PICHUMANI

Palani Amarnath. Does the name ring a bell? The then unheralded pacer was part of Chennai Super Kings' first-ever IPL match, back in 2008. He picked up a key wicket in his debut outing and played five more games before injury stymied his progress.

He's 43 now and busy shaping careers at the CSK Academy as a coach.

From obscurity to the Super Kings' playing XI was nothing short of memorable for the man from Vellore. "I started playing cricket two-three years before my first IPL match. Prior to that, I was working in a company after finishing my diploma," he told *The Hindu*.

"I was delighted I got a platform like that. That itself is a memory for me. Rubbing shoulders with big stars like (Matthew) Hayden, Mike Hussey, Jacob Oram was a goosebumps moment. I can't forget that experience."

He said there was pressure on him going into the first match (against the then Kings XI Punjab) but he managed to overcome it. "I was under pressure at the start. We made 240 and it helped me relax a bit," said Palani Amarnath, who scalped the wicket of James Hopes in the 33-run win.

As luck would have it, injuries happened. He couldn't recover and was no longer the bowler he was. He said there's a lesson in it for the younger crop.

"I tell the trainees that rest is very important. Players have to take care of themselves and their health and learn to balance life and cricket," the former CSK pacer, who has a Level-2 coaching certificate, said.

"It is every cricketer's dream to get a platform like (the IPL). When I watch the IPL, I feel like I missed it. Unfortunately, injuries played a part," said Palani Amarnath, looking back at his career.

N R I Triple Power wins Ardent Knight Plate

RACING

HYDERABAD: Trainer D. Netto's filly N R I Triple Power, ridden by Mukesh Kumar, won the Ardent Knight Plate, the main event of Tuesday's (Mar. 31) races here.

The winner is owned by Mr. Ravinder Reddy Male.

Mukesh Kumar stole the limelight by riding four winners on the day.

1. ZURBARAN PLATE (1,200M): FOXWORTH (Mukesh Kumar) 1, Analysis (G. Naresh) 2, Mahwish (Ajay K) 3 and Atreya (B. Nikhil) 4. Not run: Santorini Sky. 2-3/4, 1-1/4 and Nose. 1m, 12.88s. ₹34 (w), 26, 12 and 51 (p). SHP: 34, THP: 68, FP: 97, Q: 73, Tanala: 1,002. Favourite: Zindabad.
Owners: Mr. Suchit Jayraj Shah, Mr. Mirza Ayub Baig & The Estate of Late Mr. Rajesh Sanghani. Trainer: D. Netto.

2. CHAITANYA CHAKRAM PLATE (1,400M): N R I RANGE (Akshay Kumar) 1, Dream To Fly (G. Naresh) 2, First Lady (B.R. Kumar) 3 and Sadiya (P. Ajeeth K) 4. 5-1/2, 2 and 1/2. 1m, 26.50s. ₹24 (w), 15, 13 and 10 (p). SHP: 36, THP: 87, FP: 79, Q: 58, Tanala: 207. Favourite: First Lady.
Owner: Mr. Ravinder Reddy Male. Trainer: M. Srinivas Reddy.

3. BHAKRANANGAL PLATE (1,600M): SPECIAL STAR (Mukesh Kumar) 1, Real Thalaivaa (Mohit) 2, Lake Michigan (Akshay K) 3 and Quintessential (Kuldeep Jr.) 4. 3-1/2, 1/2 and 3-1/4. 1m, 39.76s. ₹14 (w), 15, 15 and 10 (p). SHP: 48, THP: 23, FP: 102, Q: 73, Tanala: 158. Favourite: Special Star.
Owners: M/s. Ashok Ranpise, Seshadri Reddy Pochana, Teegala Vijender Reddy, Teegala Sumant Reddy, Teja Gollapudi, Bollineni Krishnaiah, Capt. Jamshed J. Appoo, M/s. Mukund Kakani & Pochana Arjun Reddy. Trainer: K.S.V. Prasad Raju.

4. ARDENT KNIGHT PLATE (1,600M): N R I TRIPLE POWER (Mukesh Kumar) 1, Authoritarian (Ajay K) 2, Knight Regent (Akshay K) 3 and Krystallos (Surya Prakash) 4. 4-3/4, Short Head and Neck. 1m, 39.18s. ₹33 (w), 20, 12 and 10 (p). SHP: 59, THP: 60, FP: 216, Q: 175, Tanala: 472. Favourite: Knight Regent.
Owner: Mr. Ravinder Reddy Male. Trainer: D. Netto.

5. PRINCE OF BERAR PLATE (1,100M): DIVINE TIGER (Akshay Kumar) 1, Queen Eternal (Neeraj) 2, Aarav's Pet (B. Nikhil) 3 and My Day (Rafique Sk.) 4. 2-1/2, 2-1/4 and 1-1/2. 1m, 05.76s. ₹23 (w), 10, 15 and 37 (p). SHP: 46, THP: 157, FP: 68, Q: 63, Tanala: 1,076. Favourite: Grit N Grace.
Owner: Mr. Paramvir Singh. Trainer: L.V.R. Deshmukh.

6. CABARET PLATE (1,200M): DECCAN SPIRIT (Mukesh Kumar) 1, Knight Crusader (Akshay K) 2, Gloria (P. Ajeeth K) 3 and Rival (Ajay K) 4. Not run: Safala. 1/2, 3-3/4 and 3/4. 1m, 11.36s. ₹39 (w), 23, 13 and 16 (p). SHP: 36, THP: 60, FP: 121, Q: 42, Tanala: 911. Favourite: Knight Crusader.
Owners: Mr. Shailendra Singh & Mr. K. Ram Gopal Rao. Trainer: Magan Singh.

7. SWEET GIRL PLATE (1,400M): SILVER ARROW (P. Sai Kumar) 1, Bold Indian (Akshay K) 2, Muaser (P. Ajeeth K) 3 and Star Cruise (Kuldeep Jr.) 4. Not run: Golden Bourbon and Lucky Fiero. Neck, 2 and 7-1/4. 1m, 28.57s. ₹23 (w), 19, 10 and 10 (p). SHP: 16, THP: 19, FP: 52, Q: 25, Tanala: 83. Favourite: Bold Indian.
Owner: Mr. Ashok Kumar Gupta. Trainer: A. Imran Khan.
Jackpot: 70%: ₹4,246 (77 tkts.), 30%: 353 (396 tkts.).
Mini Jackpot: (i) 1,029 (21 tkts.), (ii) 2,045 (30 tkts.).
Treble: (i) 266 (132 tkts.), (ii) 479 (99 tkts.).

Manika posts win; Sreeja goes down

ITTF WORLD CUP

ANI
MACAU

Manika Batra and Sreeja Akula had contrasting outings in the ITTF World Cup 2026, here on Tuesday.

World No. 47 Manika posted a 11-7, 11-2, 14-16, 5-11, 11-6 win over World No. 42 Lily Zhang of the USA.

The 44th-ranked Sreeja made a promising start before going down to Portugal's World No. 48 Fu Yu 11-8, 9-11, 13-15, 8-11.

Three-time Olympian Manika did well under pressure to finish with a win in her final group-stage match of the tournament.

Sreeja will play World No. 2 and Olympic gold medallist Wang Manyu of China on Wednesday.

Manav Thakkar will face Olympic silver medallist and World No. 2 Truls Moregardh of Sweden on Wednesday.

Danilo will be part of WC squad: Ancelotti

Reuters
ORLANDO

Brazil head coach Carlo Ancelotti has backed veteran defender Danilo to be part of his 26-man squad for this year's FIFA World Cup, adding that his squad is largely settled.

Brazil has been drawn in Group C alongside Morocco, Haiti and Scotland for the June 11 to July 19 tournament, with Ancelotti set to announce his final squad by May 18.

"Danilo is a very important player, not only on the pitch but also off it," Ancelotti told reporters on Monday in Orlando, ahead of the friendly game against Croatia.

"Danilo is certain to be in the final 26-man squad because I like him... his character, his personality, his style of play. He can play in all defensive positions.

"I have a fairly clear idea of the starting line-up for the first match, and the final squad is also pretty much set."

Few mentors, many tormentors: a cautionary tale

BETWEEN WICKETS
Suresh Menon

There is something profoundly distressing about an international cricketer trying to forget his days in the game. Laxman Sivaramakrishnan, 60, became a national hero in his brief career, and a victim of colourism in a country that looks down upon the dark-skinned.

His is not an isolated case. Abhinav Mukund has spoken about skin colour bias, as have movie stars, and others affected.

As a prodigiously talented leg-spinner, Siva was good enough to play for India at 17 alongside his state skipper S. Venkatraghavan, who had made his Test debut before Siva was born! At 19, he won a Test for India, claiming 12 wickets against England in Mumbai. A couple of days after that Test, Siva arrived for dinner and cricket talk at the residence of my then boss in Chennai. We were a motley crowd – there was the great P.K. Srinivasan, wonderful writer and an early hero of mine in the profession, and another senior journalist.

The 19-year-old held his own, talking about the Test, especially his strategy against Mike Gatting, a fine player of spin whom he dismissed twice in that match. He listened as the topic moved on from cricket to politics (Indira Gandhi had been killed a few weeks earlier), to literature and returned to cricket. I was just a few years older but was impressed by his confidence, his keenness to learn, and his sense of humour.

I got to know him better over the years. So when he says, as he did in *Indian Express*, that he always wanted to "forget, forget, forget," I feel a pang of guilt. How did I not see all this in his playing days and write about it before all the insults, the frustrations got out of hand? Siva always spoke intelligently about cricket, and with his friend W.V. Raman was one of the most articulate youngsters in the Tamil Nadu team then.

It all seems such a waste. Indian cricket didn't have a system of mentoring players; if you were good enough to play for the country, the authorities probably argued, then you were good enough to sort out your own issues. A bunch of talented youngsters who arrived with Sivaramakrishnan, like Maninder Singh and Sadanand Viswanath were thus left to their own devices and suffered in different ways. The seniors were too busy fighting their own battles to take younger players under their wing. The Sunil Gavaskar-Kapil Dev feud meant that others had to take sides in the team. It says something about Siva's temperament that he was accepted by both camps.

Mentoring apart, there was too a technical detail that bowlers, especially spinners with early success, had to deal with. When they grew taller, they struggled to land the ball on the good length spot. Another teenage talent who levelled off after he grew taller was Karnataka's left arm spinner Prakash Rathod who bowled with a natural loop that was compared to Bishan Bedi's. It seems to be less of a problem today, with more professional coaching, but India have probably lost talented bowlers to the growth spurt. Siva who later developed into a good analyst, didn't fully understand this in his teens, and lacked a coach who would help him make the adjustment.

For those on the outside, it was easy to blame everything on an assortment of bad habits. People who should know better often take a perverse pleasure in running down young talent, especially after initial success.

In recent years, promising youngsters Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma had to deal with this too, accused as they were, in the early days of IPL of being party animals and lacking in discipline. But someone cared, within or outside their teams, and that made the difference.

If Siva had to face colourism in the dressing room (this is terrible, among teammates!) as well as in the stadiums, today's youngster has to deal with social media trolls too. Do talented teenagers around the country, many of them India probables, receive lessons on handling this additional pressure?

Siva's is a cautionary tale, saying as much about him as about us. Sadly, there is no guarantee in our system that no one else will suffer in the manner he did.